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Armed police vigil after 'barbaric outrage'

Photographs: UPITN





The moment Policewoman Fletcher was shot . . . and her fiancé, Police constable Michael Liddle (far right), tends her as she lies dying

Libya embassy shots kill policewoman

By Alan Hamilton, Stewart Tendler and John Witherow

Armed police were last night surrounding the Libyan People's Bureau in St James's Square, London, after a gunman in the building fired into a crowd of demonstrators, killing a policewoman and wounding 11 other people.

Mr Leon Britten, the Home Secretary, condemned the shooting as "a most disgraceful and barbaric outrage". The British Government has protested to Libya, but Libyan Radio in turn reported "a most horrible terroristic action" on the part of the British police.

As ministers and senior officials were summoned to an emergency meeting of COBRA, the special contingency unit set up to deal with serious terrorist incidents, the Prime Minister, who is on an official visit to Portugal, expressed grave concern at the shooting and offered her sympathies to the family of the dead policewoman, and her appreciation of her "great bravery".

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Wells, head of Scotland Yard's press department, said the first priority of the police was "to make sure this is resolved without further bloodshed". The police did not know how many people were in the bureau, but they did not believe there were any hostages, and they also believed the gunman who opened fire was still inside the building.

Mr Wells said: "We are prepared for a long wait; time is on our side."

The police were not sure how many gunmen were in the bureau, and they were also unsure of the diplomatic status of those inside.

He said that shortly after the shooting, at 10.10am, a man was released from the building, who proved to be "a press representative", who was helping police with their inquiries.

Mr Wells hinted that diplomatic negotiations were in progress, when he was asked who was involved in talking to the bureau. He said that senior-level negotiations were taking place, in which the police had a role, "but the talks extend beyond the police role."

Mr Brittan said that the main aim of the police operation was to persuade those inside the building to come out, so that it could be searched for weapons and explosives.

On other pages

A difficulty, however, is that the premises, being a diplomatic mission, is by convention protected from British law, and police may enter only by the invitation of the head of mission, or the embassy's own government.

Yesterday afternoon, hours after the shooting, police arrsted six men at Heathrow airport, London, but Scotland Yard said some of those arrested had been near the incident. The arrests came soon after the Foreign Office had instructed a British Caledonian aircraft, on a scheduled flight to Tripoli, to turn back to London when it was more than half way to its destination.

Last night three men were still being detained, but no charges had been brought.

The officer killed in the shooting was named as Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher, aged 25, based at Bow Street police station. She was taken to Westminster Hospital, but died of gunshot wounds two hours after the shooting, as surgeons fought vainly to save her life. She came from Shaftesbury, Dorset and joined the police force seven years ago.

WPC Fletcher died in an incident which began as a routine police operation to patrol what was expected to be a normal demonstration by a group of 70 Libyans, who had travelled by bus from the north of England, outside the elegant, five-storey People's Bureau, which in the confused world of Libyan politics is their equivalent of an embassy in London. Police had erected temporary barriers in the square to contain the small crowd.

The demonstrators were wearing masks and hoods and some carried banners hostile to Colonel Gaddafi. Meanwhile two other small groups, each of about 20, formed a rival demonstration, which contained peacefully by police in another part of the square.

Shortly after 10am, suddenly and without warning, a burst of machine-gun fire from a window in the building, lasting only a few seconds, exploded on the crowd beneath. Horrified bystanders saw WPC Fletcher crumple to the ground, along with several other demonstrators.

The moment of drama was captured by a film crew from the UPITN television news agency, which had been asked to cover the demonstration on

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Tragic victim: WPC Yvonne Fletcher, aged 25, who died after being hit by machine-gun bullets.

Pint-size girl who fulfilled a dream

By Barbara Day

Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher had wanted to be policewoman from the time she was three years old, her mother, Mrs Queenie Fletcher, told a press conference at Scotland Yard yesterday. But Yvonne, at only 5ft 2½in, was too short for the force. Though turned down by the police several times, she was deterimend not to give up her efforts.

Her senior officer at Bow Street station, Chief Superintendent Bryan West, said that because of her determination, drive, intelligence and suitability, an exception was made to allow her to join the force despite a normal height requirment of 5ft 4in. She was probably the smallest policewoman in the country, he said.

Yvonne, aged 25, was on duty with her fiancé, PC Michael Liddle, also stationed at Bow Stree, for the demonstration. PC Liddle saw Yvonne shot. A doctor's son from Norfolk, he joined the police in 1980. The couple were unofficially engaged.

Sitting with her husband and Yvonne's 22-year-old sister Heather, a nurse at Charing Cross Hospital, Mrs Fletcher paid a quiet tribute to her daughter's courage and determination. She described Yvonne, the eldest of four daughters, as a very happy girl.

"All I know is that she wanted to be a policewoman from the time she was three years old. She never wanted to do anything else and that was just her life. She loved it at Bow Street station. It was her second home. She just wanted

Continued on page 3, col 1

Diplomatic status no bar to police, says Brittan

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said last night that the machine-gun attack on Libyan demonstrators in London, which killed a young policewoman and injured 11 other people, was a "barbarous outrage" and a "murderous onslaught".

He said in radio and television interviews that the fact that the automatic fire had come from the Libyan People's Bureau would not stop the police taking action.

He said: "It is not a question of getting permission to go in. The police will not be deterred from doing their duty. Status is no pretext."

Mr Brittan took immediate charge of the St James' Square incident, moving from the Home Office to the Cabinet Office Briefing Room, known as Cobra, in the Whitehall nerve centre for all crisis planning.

Although the Home Secretary had direct responsibility for police in London, his position in command was underlined by the fact that the Prime Minister had left only hours earlier for her three-day visit to Portugal.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is in China, and Lord Whitelaw, deputy Prime Minister, was in Cumbria and it was said there were no plans for his early return.

Emerging from Cobra at about 5.30pm, he gave a series of frank interviews, in which he said: "It is a barbarous outrage and a terrible tragedy that a young policewoman should have lost her life in this way.

"There was a perfectly peaceful demonstration, fully and properly controlled by the police and from the window of the Libyan People's Bureau automatic fire commenced and 12 people were injured and one, as we have heard, died."

In another interview Mr Britton revealed that the bureau had protested on Monday to the Foreign Office about the proposed demonstration. The Home Office told the bureau that people had a right, in Britain, to demonstrate peacefully.

Mr Brittan continued: "The situation is that the police are surrounding that building and they are anxious to ensure that everybody in it comes out and that they can then go in and search it for explosives and for weapons. And that is our objective.

"Meanwhile, the Government has protested in the strongest possible terms, both here and in Libya, at the abuse of this diplomatic facility."

He also said that he could not promise a quick solution, but that police had spoken by telephone with senior accredited diplomats inside the building, and they had said they were prepared to help.

"We have now asked them to request their fellow countrymen and all in that building to come out and assist the police in

Continued on page 3, col 8

Ford profits dip after sales record

Ford car sales in Britain set a record last year, but pretax profits of £178m went down £16m on 1982.

Profits were further affected by a £245m special provision for Budget tax changes and closure costs.

Car sales rose 43,856 to 518,048 but Mr Sam Toy, the chairman and chief executive, said production and manning levels were still short of continental standards.

Capital expenditure was £310m, and a further £291m is scheduled Page 17

Tests criticized

A former Home Office forensic scientist criticized the way the new Intoximeter breath test equipment was introduced, and the presentation of technical evidence in court Page 4

Heart cash plea

Health experts want the Government to spend £60m tackling heart disease. They say 40,000 lives could be saved every year. Page 4

Chess victory

Niaz Murshed of Bangladesh won first prize with a score of seven points in the Young Masters International Chess Tournament at Oakham after agreeing a draw in a final round game against Igor Stohl of Czechoslovakia.

Rebel ambush

Salvadorean guerrillas killed 37 Government soldiers in an ambush on the Pan-American Highway. Such a successful attack on a military convoy may affect troop morale before the run-off presidential election on May 6 Page 6

Thatcher ideal

Mrs Thatcher, at the start of her visit to Portugal, said Britain wanted to welcome Lisbon in 1986 to an EEC reformed on the basis of fairer distribution of burdens and benefits Page 6

Law review call

Solicitors and editors are asking for the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, to be reviewed as they fear that judges are using it wrongly Page 4

Peking deadline

With China still looking for agreement on the future of Hongkong by September, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will continue negotiations by meeting Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese elder statesman, Page 6

Bush in Geneva

Vice-President George Bush arrived in Geneva where he will today present an American draft treaty aimed at banning chemical weapons to the 40-nation UN conference on disarmament Page 5

Games headgear

For the first time in the Olympic Games boxers will have to wear headgear. Page 23

LIBYAN SIEGE ● Violence back in fashion ● Riddle of the London Four ● Offensive against exiles

Signs of tougher Gaddafi line on dissidents began over a year ago

By Andrew Lycett

The British authorities had ample warning that radicalism, and with it the threat of "revolutionary violence" against anti-Gaddafi dissidents, was back in fashion in Libya.

Libya has been fairly quiet in pursuing its enemies in the four years since the murder of prominent opposition figures abroad in 1980. Over the past couple of years, the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, has been more concerned to cope with the effects of cuts in oil prices and production, which more than halved Libya's income from $20 billion (£14 billion) to $8 billion.

But in February last year the General People's Congress, the nearest thing to a parliament in Libya, returned to the offensive,

Moderates thrown out of Cabinet

issuing a warning that "every citizen is responsible for the liquidation of the enemies of the people and the revolution," and threatening states which "shelter and assist" exiles considered hostile to the revolution.

Towards the end of last year, the Libyan press began a campaign against the bourgeois habits of some of the country's People's Bureaux (or embassies). It accused diplomats of misusing their positions and of amassing money belonging to the Libyan public. The People's Bureau in London was singled out on this score.

In February this year the annual General People's Congress met again. This time Colonel Gaddafi reshuffled his Cabinet, throwing out the moderate Prime Minister, Mr Jeddalah Talhi, and the equally pragmatic Foreign Minister, Mr Abdel Ati at-Obeidi, who was educated at Manchester University.

The Libyan leader also introduced a new figure into his Cabinet, with a rank not known in many countries – Minister for External Security. What this minister, Colonel Yunis Bilhagazim, is supposed to do was not spelt out.

But the general emphasis was clear from his four assistants, all associated with revolutionary violence abroad – Ahmed Gaddafadam, Colonel Gaddafi's cousin and main fixer of international problems; Sayed Rashid, who was arrested last year in France for terrorist activities and was about to be extradited to Italy when he was returned to Libya in strange circumstances; and Musa Kusa, former head of the Libyan People's Bureau in London, who was asked to leave by the British Government after a spate of killings of Libyans in Britain in 1980.

The General People's Congress was accompanied by the sacking of the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli, a premeditated action which led to the rupture of diplomatic relations between the two countries and further emphasized Libya's generally poor relations at present with the rest of the Arab world.

After some moderate success in backing the opponents of Mr Yassir Arafat among the Palestinians, Colonel Gaddafi has had no luck furthering his diplomacy in Lebanon. The Shia Muslims, who have come to prominence there recently, dislike him heartily because they accuse him of abducting and murdering their spiritual leader, the Imam Musa Dadr, five years ago.

At the General People's Congress, Colonel Gaddafi, clearly fed up with gossip on these lines, spoke for the first time on the death of the Imam. He said the Lebanese Shia leader had indeed come to Libya, but had left angrily after two days when the Libyan leader had not seen him immediately. Colonel Gaddafi countered by saying that the Imam had been an agent of the Shah. The Libyan news agency Jana quoted him as saying: "This statement might explode the situation and create uproar in Lebanon. But I am insistent on saying it, so that Libya is no longer accused of Sadr's disappearance.

"Thousands of 'Sadrs' have died in Lebanon and the Arab world – why should we cry only for Musa Sadr, the agent of the Shah?"

Students take over in London

It this atmosphere, the expected shake-up in the Libyan People's Bureaux duly took place. Towards the end of February the London bureau chief, Mr Adam Kweiri, and his cultural attache, Mr Abdel Hamid bin Mussa, were called home.

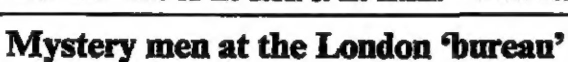
Direction of the bureau was put in the hands of a four-man committee of students with backgrounds in the Revolutionary Brigades which have waged the campaign against the dissidents abroad – Abdel Ghadir, who studied business administration in the United States and was living in Coventry; Ali Abu Jaziah, studying English in Bournemouth; and Maatooq Muhammed Maatooq, another Coventry resident.

Once installed, these four called a press conference in which they repeated their Government's threats against dissidents and accused the British authorities of harbouring enemies of the Libyan revolution.



On the battlefront: An armed policeman running for cover and a man leaving the embassy with hands up during the siege of St James's Square

Mystery men at the London 'bureau'



Britain puts embassies on alert

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain's embassies overseas were on alert last night as diplomatic relations with Libya sank to a new low as a result of the shooting in St James's Square.

Particular concern was felt for the mission in Tripoli where the ambassador, Mr Oliver Miles was in constant touch with the Foreign Liaison Bureau – which is Colonel Gaddafi's name for his ministry of foreign affairs.

But relations between the two capitals have been strained and uncertain since February 18 when a group of men calling themselves the Libyan Revolutionary Students Force marched upon the embassy, or People's Bureau, on a quiet Saturday in elegant St James's Square, and seized control.

Two days later the authorities in Tripoli confirmed to Mr Miles that Mr Adem Kuwiri was no longer the chargé d'affaires in London, but refused to say who had taken his place.

A week later the students held a press conference at which they threatened to break off relations with Britain unless the Thatcher government changed its policies in the Middle East and in Libya in particular.

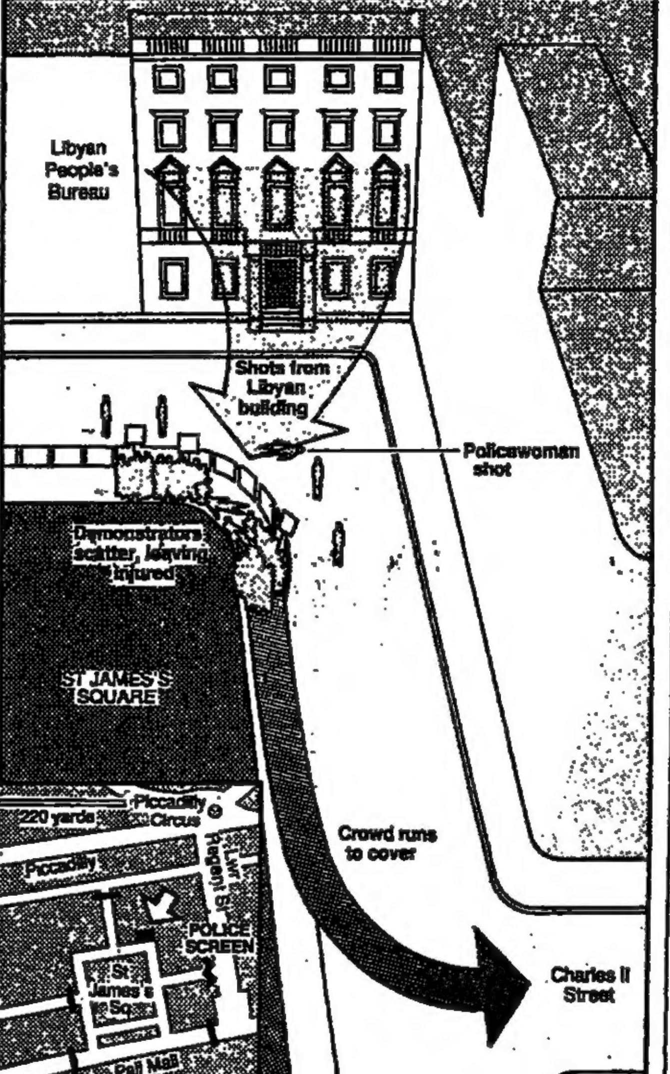
Since then the normal routine business of an embassy has continued as before, with trained Libyan diplomats continuing their work. But the Libyans have pointedly failed to identify the four-man students' committee which has technically been in charge of the bureau, leaving the Foreign Office without any chargé d'affaires to deal with. Of Mr Kuwiri's present whereabouts there was no word last night.

In early March Scotland Yard and the Foreign Office together warned any dissidents among the 7,000 or so Libyans living in Britain to be on their guard. A series of bomb outrages a week later then led to a strong warning from the Foreign Office that relations between the two countries could be badly damaged unless Colonel Gaddafi gave assurances that he would do all he could to stop fighting between groups of Libyan expatriates in Britain.

Mr Miles was believed yesterday to be pressing for permission for British police to enter the St James's Square building.

As an officially recognized diplomatic mission the bureau is covered by Article 22 of the 1949 Vienna Convention which expressly states that "the premises of a mission shall be inviolate" and cannot be entered by the agents of the host country "except with the consent of the head of the mission".

As their names have never been notified officially to the Foreign Office, the students are not recognized as diplomats enjoying the usual privilege of diplomatic immunity – unlike the 24 other names in the latest London Diplomatic List as being at the mission.



Firing was ordered, protesters claim

By Richard Dowden

"We never thought they'd be crazy enough to actually do anything", a spokesman for one of the Libyan opposition groups which organized the demonstration, said yesterday.

"These people have instructions to do this back home. We would have spent an hour in front of the embassy and gone home. Our demonstration was quite peaceful."

The spokesman for the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) did not wish to give his name. Founded in 1981, this organization has emerged as the most effective of the groups opposing Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

It is active in Britain, the United States, Morocco and Sudan, broadcasts from a radio station in Omdurman and distributes a well written magazine in English printed in Germany.

It also claims to have close links with the Libyan army, elements of which it claims have made five attempts on Gaddafi's life in the past year, although the organization itself rejects violence.

Most of the NFSL membership comes from students and professionals among Libya's 40,000 to 50,000 exiles and it stands for a democratic and non aligned Libya.

Its general secretary and founder is Mohammed Youssef Mugharief, who was Libyan ambassador to India

Yesterday's demonstration was held to commemorate the deaths of three studentswho were hanged for protesting against Colonel Gaddafi's interference in the running of the universities in 1976. It was organized by the General Students Organization but the NFSL was one of the main contingents.

Other groups were the Libyan Constitutional Union, which stands for a return to the 1951 constitution of King Idris, the Libyan National Democrtic Movement and the Libyan National League, a more conservative pro-royalist group.

Not all the groups agreed that whoever fired on the demonstrators was acting under instructions from Libya. Mr Hishan Ghalboun, the spokesman for the Libyan Constitutional Union, said: "The five who were deported from Britain in connexion with the bombings in March were put in prison when they got back for failing to eliminate any anti-Gaddafi Libyans.

Those people in the bureau were under heavy pressure to do something. What they didn't want was to remain powerless with a demonstration going on under their noses."

Timetable of past incidents

1979

September 2: Libyan Embassy taken over by students and renamed the Peoples Bureau.

1980

February 18: Libya says opponents will be liquidated.

April 11: Libyan journalist killed outside Regents Park mosque.

April 25: Libyan lawyer shot dead at Kensington home.

May 13: Four Libyan diplomats expelled from Britain.

June 2: Libyan expels 20 Britons, including three diplomats.

September 17: Three Libyans jailed for life for murder in London.

November 12: Two Libyan children poisoned in Hampshire.

November 30: Libyan student stabbed to death in Manchester.

1982

November 28: Robert Maxwell, British engineer, jailed for 12 years in Tripoli for accepting bribes.

1984

February 18: Libyan students seize control of People's Bureau.

March 10 – 11: Twenty-six people injured in seven bomb attacks in London and Manchester.

Scottish pledge to strike for miners

From David Felton
Labour Correspondent
Aberdeen

Miners yesterday won the first phase of the drive to turn the pit strike into a wider confrontation with the Government when leaders of almost a million Scottish trade unionists pledged to stage a 24 hour unlawful stoppage, probably on May day.

The call for a one-day strike and an appeal for financial help for the miners were agreed unanimously at the Scottish TUC in Aberdeen.

In an emotional debate watched by about 300 striking miners in the public gallery speaker after speaker characterized the dispute as a battle with the Government which the miners and the rest of the trade union movement could not afford to lose.

"If the miners lose the strike it will be the last strike we would fight for decades to come," Mr Jim Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, said.

The tone was set by Mr Michael McGahey, vice president of the National Union of Mineworkers, who told delegates: "We are fighting for this country and we are telling this country we will not be bought off by your filthy money. We will keep our jobs and our dignity."



Mr McGahey: "We will not be bought"

Many speakers urged that the one-day strike should be as wide as possible although a hint of difficulties lying ahead came from Mr Alex Kitson, deputy general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. "We will leave it to our members' conscience and they have never been found wanting in the past," he said.

Court ban on pickets

A High Court judge in London yesterday banned South Wales miners' pickets from stopping coke lorries entering or leaving Port Talbot steelworks.

Deputy Judge Sir Douglas Frank, QC, granted two haulage companies in Gloucestershire, an injunction forbidding pickets from "stopping, approaching or in any other way interfering" with the companies' lorries.

Lawyers for Richard Read Transport, of Longhope, in the Forest of Dean, and George M. Read Transport, of Micheldean, were granted the order.

In addition to the injunction, the companies are both seeking damages against the National Union of Mineworkers.

● Nottinghamshire's 34,000 miners have voted by a majority of 80 per cent against Mr Arthur Scargill's move to lower the mandate for calling a strike from 55 per cent to a simple majority.

UK-Dutch deal on weapons

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

Britain signed an agreement yesterday to buy from The Netherlands a weapons system capable of firing 70 rounds a second to defend Royal Navy ships against sea-skimming missiles such as the Exocet.

As part of the £60m deal the Dutch are buying from Britain 16 Rolls-Royce Spey engines for eight new frigates.

In the Falklands conflict, British ships suffered from the lack of a close-in weapon system which could provide a last line of defence against missiles and enemy aircraft.

The Dutch Goalkeeper system, produced by the Signaal company, will be installed on four British Type-22 frigates and also on the new class of frigate, the Type-23.

A letter of intent signed in Amsterdam yesterday by Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, and Mr Jan van Houwelingen, his Dutch opposite number, holds out the possibility of the two countries supplying each other with more Goalkeeper systems and Spey engines.

But Mr Pattie has ambitions beyond that. He hopes to persuade the Dutch to buy another British weapon, the vertical-launched Sea Wolf missile, which will travel at more than twice the speed of sound to attack aircraft and missiles at a range of about five kilometres.

He is hoping that the Dutch can be persuaded to favour this weapon over the American vertical-launched Sea Sparrow system, which has a greater range but is slower and which, until now, the Dutch navy is thought to have favoured.

Agents lose commission on cut-price house sale

Estate agents are not entitled to their commission if they sell a house for less than the owner's asking price without first agreeing the price cut with the owner, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

In a case affecting estate agents throughout the country, two judges held that an Essex couple need not pay agents' commission on the home they sold four years ago.

When Police Sergeant Trevor Taylor, aged 30, and his wife, Sandra, aged 31, put their three-bedroom end-of-terrace home in Coolgardie Avenue, Highams Park, Chingford, Essex, in the hands of estate agents in 1980, they instructed that the selling price should be £34,500.

But, just before exchange of contracts with a buyer found by the agents, Garmans, of Highams Park, Chingford, the Taylors discovered from their solicitor that the sale had been agreed at £33,500.

After Mr Taylor struck a deal with the buyers, the sale went through for £34,000. Because the agents had not stuck to the asking price, a county court judge at Edmonton ruled that Garmans, and their agent Mr Ronald Spiers, were not entitled to any commission.

Yesterday, an appeal by Garmans and Mr Spiers, in which they claimed they were entitled to £615 commission and contested a £50 damages award made to Mr and Mrs Taylor at the County Court, was dismissed.

Lord Justice Eveleigh, sitting with Lord Justice Stephen Brown, agreed with the county court judge who had ruled that the estate agents were "inefficient" and "negligent".

The agents, on a printed form setting their terms and conditions, agreed to advertise the Taylors' house for £34,500.

"That is a condition which has to be fulfilled as an obligation undertaken by the estate agent before he is entitled to claim his commission", Lord Justice Eveleigh said.

Airport 'poll tax' threat

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

A £15 "poll tax" on passengers using Heathrow airport, London for domestic flights is being considered by the Government as a way of reducing traffic at the overloaded airport.

It would raise fares from places such as Glasgow, Belfast and Manchester by about a quarter and would bring protests from British Midland Airways and British Airways, whose "Super Shuttle" would be seriously affected.

British Rail would benefit as passengers won by domestic airlines in recent years came back.

The tax is one of several possible steps in a government consultation paper to be published shortly on how to keep Heathrow flights within an annual limit of 275,000, due to come into effect when the new £200m Terminal Four opens

Others include restictions on domestic and private flights to leave more scope for the international flights which are considered both by the Government and the British Airports Authority to be more important for Heathrow.

Mr Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, the leading independent domestic operator to Heathrow said yesterday that the measures would force his company to reconsider its entire future.

Makers buy back own porcelain

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Christie's was selling porcelain and house linen designed by Peter Bahrens, one of the twentieth century's most celebrated German architects, yesterday.

His 1920s building for the electricity board in Berlin was a model solution to the problem of designing for the comfort of humans as well as the efficiency of machines, but he had dabbled in domestic design for a friend who was getting married.

The geometric patterned porcelain dinner service was mostly bought yesterday by the company which made it in 1901, Gebrader Bauscher of Weiden – the German equivalent of Wedgwood.

The company paid £1,728 (estimate £1,600 to £2,000) for 12 plates and £1,512 (estimate £1,200 to £1,500) for three hexagonal serving dishes.

A private collector outbid the company on a pair of two-handled serving dishes, and some mixed lots of plates were unsold.

Refund pledge by Sainsbury

J. Sainsbury, the supermarket chain is to give refunds to customers who return its own-label frozen beefburgers after the discovery that supplies from Henry Telfer Ltd departed from Sainsbury's specification.

An anonymous letter from Telfer's factory in Northampton, drew Sainsbury's attention to the fact that Telfer had been using a cheaper emulsifying agent than that specified by Sainsbury.

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● Brittan's outrage ● Blood ran on a sunny day ● Policewoman shot down LIBYAN SIEGE



Death on duty: Police colleagues rushing to the aid of policewoman, Yvonne Fletcher shortly after the shooting in St James's Square

Eyewitnesses describe burst of gunfire that cleared square

By Jenny Knight

Eyewitnesses who heard the burst of gunfire and saw wounded people drop to the ground later described the scene.

Television advertising film maker Mr Ray Barker, aged 46, said: "I was watching the demonstrations from the third floor window of an office block in St James' Square, about 50 feet away from the students. The police had prepared for the demonstration very carefully. That end of the square had been cleared. Cars had been moved and they had erected crash barriers along the pavement.

"At about 10 o'clock the sutdents arrived. They wore scarves and head dresses in the Arabic style. They carried banners proclaiming 'Gaddafi hangs students'. They were shepherded on the pavement – between the railings of the park and barriers on the pavement opposite the embassy. On the other side of the road was a counter demonstration by what I took to be pro-Gaddafi supporters. It was very small – perhaps a dozen people.

"After about five minutes there was a sudden burst of gunfire – it went on for nearly 10 seconds. I assumed it came from the road because the embassy's windows are barred and shuttered, with heavy grills convering plate glass. It all happened very quickly.

"I saw the policewoman fall and several of the students behind her fall as well. Within seconds her white shirt turned to red with blood. I saw her little cap lying in the road. It was a pathetic sight. There was a splattering of blood a few yards away.

"Some policemen vaulted the barriers to run to her aid, and were running to take up positions covering the building and pointing pistols. The scene there was just like a battlefield with dressings covering the pavement and two ambulances trying desperately to get out through the crowds. The officers carried the woman police constable to nearby Charles II Street to await an ambulance. She looked in a grave way, ashen white, with her eyes closed.

'I could not believe this was in London - it was unreal'

'Reinforcements were on the scene within minutes. The police did not fire a single shot. All this that happened in front of my eyes is still difficult to comprehend. On a sunny day in the centre of London it was pure madness. It was just an insignificant little demonstration."

Mr Brian Cartmell, a journalist, said: "I arrived with my son Gary, aged 21, to attend a meeting in the square. As I paid the cab driver off I could see two groups of foreign students or demonstrators, some wearing masks. A ring of police had two of the factions surrounded. As I walked towards a sergeant and a policeman to ask if I could have permission to walk through the square, what seemed lika fire cracker exploded in the left-hand side of the square. I saw the bullets hit the pavement and realised it was small arms fire.

"The policewoman, 15 feet in front of me, crumbled to the floor clutching her lower stomach and groin, and rolled on to her right-hand side with a look of total surprise on her pretty face. The policewoman's hat rolled slowly into the gutter while three or four officers shouting 'My God' ran past me to her assistance. Another officer pulled me to the side of the pavement.

"The Arab demonstrators on my left seemed to recognise the small arms fire very quickly and fled from the square. English bystanders did not react as quickly – until a police officer ran towards them shouting: 'That's a real live machine gun with real live bullets. Get to hell out of the square, and do it now.'

"The whole square seemed to explode at that time with running people and we fled dodging behind cars."

Advertising executive Mr Dave Robson, who was in a nearby office, helped care for a shocked policeman after the incident.

He said: "He seemed terribly upset. I don't think he was injured, just shocked. We offered him a drink and put him in our boardroom. Then a detective came in and helped to take him to an ambulance."

Miss Joan Bailey, an Edgware librarian, saw the shooting from the top floor of the London Library building overlooking the square while she was taking a coffee break.

She said: "There had been a terrific police presence since early in the morning, and there was a line of police keeping the demonstrators away from the embassy. Then there was a very loud noise which at first I thought was fireworks.

"Then I realised it was gunfire as I saw a policewoman go down. Police came rushing to her, helmets flying. One minute the square was full of people and police and the next everyone had melted away into doorways and out of the square. I could not believe this was happening in London. It seemed unreal."

Mr Richard Bowden, a salesman, aged 31 from Aldershot, was on his way to his office, two doors from the embassy. "The demonstrators were chanting 'Gadaffi kills students' in Arabic – I speak the language. Suddenly there was a bang like fireworks going off and people were on the ground covered in blood. I saw the WPC fall with a shot through the stomach."

He ducked into his office and moments later a demonstrator with a gunshot wound in his chest was helped into the building.

'Within seconds her white shirt turned to red with blood'

Bricklayer, Mr Dean Bowman was coming out of a cafe opposite the embassy. "I noticed a window on the second floor being opened and then there was a quick burst of gunfire. Everyone in the demonstration dropped to the ground. They were all wearing balaclavas. Some were hit and they were dragged off by their friends."

Miss Jennifer Bowman, aged 26, who works for our advertising agency in the square, said: "The shots came from an upper window of the bureau. Someone stuck a submaching gun out and sprayed into the crowd. It was quite a short burst."



A policeman tending to an injured, hooded demonstrator in St James's Square

Phone link to Libyans as SAS stands by

Continued from page 1

behalf of a number of Arab television stations. Viewers to lunchtime news bulletins in Britain saw WPC Fletcher fall to the ground, pale and writhing in agony.

WPC Fletcher and the other wounded were immediately dragged from the crowd, and taken to safety round the corner out of the line of fire. All were taken to Westminster Hospital, where roads were cleared to give free access to the approaching convoy of ambulances. Last night nine of the wounded were still in hospital, and five were reported in serious condition.

Immediately after the shooting police cars and ambulances raced across London to the scene, seriously disrupting traffic, and a police helicopter hovered over the scene. The building was surrounded by armed officers, and police cleared the immediate areas, evacuating office workers from adjoining buildings. People in a bank next to the bureau were got out by being taken to the roof, then led down a fire escape, out of sight of the bureau.

The first armed officers on the scene were members of the 300-member Diplomatic Patrol Group, whose red cars and vans could be seen in the square blocking the road, or offering cover for men armed with hand guns. By mid-afternoon, several dozen other officers were on roofs looking down on the bureau, their revolvers propped up at arms' length, ready to fire.

Many officers wore flak jackets, and gathered round the bureau, their guns holstered by their sides. Members of D-11, Scotland Yard's firearms training department which also provides marksmen, arrived from their base in Essex in an unmarked van. They were later seen on roofs watching the bureau and assessing the situation.

Minutes after the shooting a single figure, middle aged and wearing an anorak, was seen to emerge from the door of the bureau. On instructions from the police loudhailer, he raised his arms, and was led away.

Specialist listening equipment and cameras were placed pointing towards the bureau by a number of technicians, who earlier this week were on duty for the trial of Michael Bettaney at the Central Criminal Court, checking for microphones or other attempts to eavesdrop the secret trial. Technicians work for Special Branch or MI5, whose officers were on the scene.

By mid-afternoon police, following established tactics for dealing with a seige, had established a telephone line into the bureau, but would not say whom they had spoken to, or the nature of the discussions. Later in the day *The Times* telephoned the building, and were answered by a man who confirmed that it was the bureau, but would not identify himself and would give no further details.

In Apple Tree Yard, at the rear of the bureau, a police jacket had been thrown over the Libyan's own close-circuit security television system, and officers were on guard, including one crouching with a submachine gun.

By that this stage almost every building in the vinicity had been evacuated, although some members of St James's clubs were still being allowed into their premises. Diners to the Travelers' and the Reform clubs has to make a detour through Carlton Gardens, because Pall Mall was closed.

Members of the 22nd Special Air Services Regiment were belived to have been placed on standby shortly after the shooting. The regiment has special equipment and men constantly available at its Hereford headquarters for terrorist contingencies in mainland Britain.

Last night their were reports that an SAS liaison officer had been to the scene around the bureau to discuss the situation with police. In 1980 the SAS stormed the Iranian Embassy, freeing hostages and killing all but one of a group of Arab terrorists. In that case, police and the Government may think long and hard before committing either the police or the SAS to attacking the building, since there are apparently no hostages.

The Libyan news agency, Jana, monitored in Paris, accused the British Government of having organized "an ignoble armed attack" on its embassy in London.

"Backed by a helicopter, by British secret service agents and by Libyans and foreigners, the police launched an assault . . . firing on employees of the bureau and arresting some of them", the agency said.

"Faced with this orchestrated operation, the employees of the bureau were forced to defend themselves and the People's Bureau."

The bureau has led a chequered career in recent years. Several years ago one Libyan diplomat was expelled after condoning the death of several Libyan exiles, and promising that more killing would come.

Some months ago the bureau s the centre of an internal dispute, in which a group of Libyans was ousted from the premises by another group, promising fresh revolutionary fervour.

In the past few weeks, after a series of bombings, a number of Libyans were expelled from Britain, and a Libyan was charged with related offences.

Brittan acts after 'outrage'

Continued from page 1

dealing with this matter", Mr Brittan said.

"We do not know exactly who is there. We know that a certain number of people who do normally work there have diplomatic status. We also know that there may very well be other people in that building who do not have diplomatic status."

Mrs Thatcher, who was informed of the incident in flight, said in Independent Television News interview from Lisbon: "I am gravely concerned about the death of the young woman police constable. I want to express my sympathy to her family and also to express appreciation at her bravery and the bravery of those who served with her.

"We are deeply concerned about the injuries which are being caused."

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats and a former Foreign Secretary, said in a BBC radio interview: "Obviously, we cannot allow the streets to London to become a terrorist battlegroung.

"We know, however, that we are dealing with an extraordinarily temperamental leader in Gaddifi, we are dealig with the most volatile and unstable government."

● Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Leader, sent his condolences to the family of the dead policewoman (the Press Association reports).

He said: "The people of London and Britain will join with us in condemning this shocking act of violence and in calling on the Prime Minister to tell the Libyan government in the firmest terms that our country is not to be regarded as a battleground for anybody's factions."



The victim's family: Mr Tim Fletcher, his wife Queenie, and daughter Heather,

Girl whose dream came true

Continued from page 1

to serve the community and help other people. "If anything ever happened to her, she used to say, it was just her work.

Superintendent West, is a voice faltering with emotion, read out a prepared statement about what he called the most devastating day he had ever had to face in his 28 years in the police service.

He said: "Yvonne was stationed for all her seven years in the police service at Bow Street, which is one of the most demanding areas for police work in the whole country. She was one of my most experienced constables.

"She was an officer who could turn her hand to any kind of police work. She was a fully trained and mature professional police officer, the kind who make up the backbone of the service. Anyone would have been proud to have her as a member of a team.

"She did her job willingly and with a high degree of professional ability. Policing was all she ever wanted to do, and she was a credit to the community she served. It is therefore all the more poignant that this valuable public servant should have lost her life so tragically. She was a super girl, a bundle of energy, a diamond.

Yvonne had been involved in the training of new recruits at Bow Street, he added, and he hoped her spirit would live on through their work. He described the atmosphere at Bow Street station as not one of anger but devastation.

Village mourns: WPC Fletcher was mourned yesterday by villagers at Semley, near Shaftesbury, Dorset, who recalled her as a tomboy whose heart had always been set on a police career. She attended the village school, then went on to Gillingham Comprehensive, where she excelled at sports, especially judo and karate.

WPC died after one hour's surgery

By Sheila Beardall

A spokesman at Westminster Hospital said WPC Yvonne Fletcher died at about midday of gunshot wounds to the stomach after surgery lasting an hour.

She was visited by her boyfriend, also a police officer, but no relatives were at her bedside.

One demonstrator was discharged with a minor leg injury. He left the hospital with his yellow anorak pulled over his head and was escorted by a policeman and quickly driven away.

All the remaining demonstrators in the hospital underwent surgery. Five had serious injuries, and one was still in intensive care last night. Four received minor injuries but were being detained in hospital overnight.

Police have been questioning some of the injured. Mr Julian Nettel, the administrator, said the hospital, which had dealt with the injured from the Harrods bombing, had coped well with the emergency. However extra blood supplies and dressings had had to be brought in.

£60m programme urged to save 40,000 heart victims a year

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Forty thousand heart disease deaths a year could be prevented, a group of health exports say. They urged the Government yesterday to spend £60m on a series of measures.

They want changes in the nation's diet, better food in schools and workplaces, no cigarette advertising and improved food labelling.

Coronary heart disease claims more than 150,000 British lives each year, a death every three or four minutes. The total could be reduced by 40,000 in ten years, Professor Geoffrey Rose said on behalf of the committee which compiled the *Plans for Action* report, published yesterday.

The report summarizes the findings of a conference of health professionals in Canterbury last September. Their work was sponsored by the British Cardiac Society, the Coronary Prevention Group, the Department of Health and Social Security, and the Health Educational Council.

The group recommends a national policy for the prevention of heart disease, with both the Department of Health and the National Health Service tackling prevention as "a major priority". In a five-year programme, £12m would be needed each year.

Family doctors and other health workers such as nurses, dentists, and dieticians, should accept "their important responsibilities" especially over smoking, obesity, diet and high blood pressure.

Professor Michael Oliver, president of the British Cardiac Society, said doctors should break free from a "narrow professionalism" and do more for health education. "The medical profession has to reexamine responsibilities towards prevention", he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture should oppose elements of the common agricultural policy which run counter to a healthy food policy, the report says.

These include the European Community's proposals to raise the prescribed fat content of milk. The present consummer subsidy on butter should be removed, to make butter dearer in shops, and the EEC should stop buying skimmed milk under its intervention programme.

"At least 75 per cent of food is processed or manufactured before it reaches the consumer", the report says. "If the Ministry of Agriculture can work effectively with the food processing industry it can profoundly affect most of the food entering consumption."

Food labelling "should be improved as a matter of urgency" with, for example, a "traffic light" system showing high, medium or low fat in brands of sausages.

"Description and labelling of foods must be informative enough to allow the consumer to select intelligently", the report says. A change in grading standards for meat carcases is also recommended.

The report also calls for higher tobacco tax, a ban on all cigarette advertizing.



Princess Alexandra, who presented the television and radio awards, Frank Bough, newscaster presenter of the year (centre) and Michael Aspel, who won the personality award (Photographs: Suresh Karadia)

Policy 'may halve bus services'

By Michael Baily Transport Editor

Nearly half Britain's town and country buses could disappear if the Government pursues a "free market" policy in the provision of local bus services, a new study from Leeds university and the National Bus Company said yesterday.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, has promised a policy statement later in the spring which is expected to propose widespread deregulation and competition in an industry which is still extensively regulated, ostensibly in the public interest.

Evening and weekend services would be particularly vulnerable under such a policy and could largely disappear in many places. Many rurual routes could also go and those in the suburbs of towns and cities. But passengers could expect a greater variety of services on dense routes and in peak hours with fares possibly reduced by between a third and a half.

The report finds that internal cross-subsidy by peak services supporting offpeak ones and dense routes supporting less dense routes on Britain's bus routes amounts to about £1,500m a year, three times the operating subsidies provided by central and local government.

Cross-subsidies have traditionally been regarded as valuable in maintaining comprehensive networks and timetables but are coming under increasing attack from the Government's "market" approach.

A free-for-all in the bus industry would allow newcomers to enter profitable routes at lower fares and force established operators to cut cross-subsidies to compete.

Cross Subsidies in Urban Bus Operations. National Bus Company and Institute for Transport Studies, Leeds University. (Public Affairs department NBC 172 Buckingham Palace Road, London £5.).

BBC scoops awards

Terry Wogan and Michael Aspel were named television personalities of the year when the Television and Radio Industries Club presented its annual awards in London yesterday.

Frank Bough, David Coleman and John Dunn were also among the winners, helping the BBC to take eight of the 13 radio and television awards. Mr Wogan was named BBC personality for his chat shows and *Blankety-Blank*, While Mr Aspel won the independent personality award for his Friday evening *Six O'Clock Show* on London Weekend Television.

Breakfast Time's Frank Bough was voted newscaster presenter of the year and John Dunn picked up his second award in two months as radio personality. David Coleman was named top sports presenter. George Cole and Dennis Waterman accepted the award for *Minder*, named independent television's best programme.

Last of the Summer Wine won the award as best BBC television programme. The BBC also took the situation comedy award for the popular series, *Only Fools and Horses*.

Reilly, Ace Of Spies had the best theme music, according to the club.

Scientist criticizes Intoximeter review

From Pearce Wright, Science Editor, Exeter

An expert analytical chemist, who also describes himself as the Don Quixote among forensic scientists, yesterday levelled serious charges about the way technical evidence is presented in court when he addressed the annual congress of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Mr Henry Bland, a Home Office expert for 18 years who is now a private consultant for defendants, condemned among other things the way the new Intoximter breath testing machine was introduced by the Government. He also cited specific instances of incorrect evidence by Home Office forensic experts in support of prosecutions brought by the police.

Mr Bland said the review proposed of the new machine did not go far enough. Every case in which it was used should be accompanied automatically over the next six months by a blood or urine analysis. That should be conducted under the scrutiny of an independent and publicly accountable professional body such as the Royal Society of Chemistry. The results over the period should be published.

Mr Bland said the introuction of the breath test using instruments which measured the difference in infra-red absorption between a sample of air and breath provoked public concern because those instruments had not been fully evaluated in the eyes of the public.

Mr Bland said the manufacturers had been unwilling to allow anybody to examine the instruments in detail on the grounds of commercial confidentiality.

Defendants were being found guilty on the evidence of a black box, he said. The results the black boxes produced could not be confirmed by forensic scientists. He criticized the machines on three counts: Specificity, calibration and accuracy.

The first referred to the fact that all volatile compounds in the breath, including vinegar on your chips, were measured with the alcohol. Mr Bland said that calibration was not altogether satisfactory. There had been recent reports that the individual who calibrated machines was unhappy because after the test when a machine broke down it was repaired, but not always recalibrated, although it carried a certificate.

On accuracy, he said if there was any trace of alcohol in the mouth a high reading might be obtained. Tests had shown that alcohol in the mouth was dispersed in under 10 minutes in all test cases, however hiccuping could reintroduce alcohol back into the mouth. Under those circumstances, the tests were subject to uncontrollable inaccuracies.

Other difficulties in forensic science arose when opinions were given on limited or insufficient knowledge, Mr Bland said.

Contempt Act protest by lawyers and editors

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society and the Guild of British Newspaper Editors have asked the Lord Chancellor for an "urgent and thorough" overhaul of the working of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

They say they are "increasingly concerned" about the way judges use powers under the Act to postpone press reports of trials.

They are "dismayed" that since the Act came into force, 80 such orders have been made at the Central Criminal Court alone. The number of orders outside London is not known but the "impression is that they are by no means infrequent".

In a letter to the Lord Chancellor, Mr Mark Barrington-Ward, chairman of the two organizations' joint committee, and Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, vice-chairman, say the Act seems to have changed the courts' attitude to their powers.

Previously the power was used mostly with restraint and to an extent regarded as acceptable.

Since then this restraint seems to have been abandoned", they say.

Mr Carter-Ruck, a leading libel lawyer, said: "You can get a case where a man is convicted of rape, and because a second rape charge is pending, publication of the man's name is stopped.

Then he is acquitted on the second charge but the first case is by then stale news and the public may hear only that he has been acquitted."

This initiative coincides with a High Court test case on the banning powers being brought by the National Union of Journalists with the backing of the National Council for Civil Liberties today.

The union is seeking leave to apply for a judicial review of a Central Criminal Court case in which a judge stopped publication of a witness's name on the ground that she had been a heroin addict and publicity would affect her fragile condition.

New turn in battle for brewery

The battle for control for Theakston's, the Yorkshire brewery known for its high strength Old Peculier beer, took a new turn in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Harman ruled that Mr Paul Theakston, the brewery chairman, was not bound by any agreement to sell his two million shares to the Blackburn-based brewery group, Matthew Brown and Company.

Mr Theakston is backing a takeover bid by Matthew Brown, which has offered 71p a share, and he is accused of breach of company rules by entering into an agreement with the company.

But the judge said he had done nothing wrong because the agreement did not bind him to sell his shares.

The court action was backed by William Grant and Sons, the family company famed for its Glenfiddich whisky which is making a rival bid.

Its highest offer of 88p a share is favoured by other directors, including another member of the Theakston family, Mr Michael Theakston.

The judge dismissed the action and now the takeover battle resumes.

PC shot after £24,000 bank robbery

A policeman was shot and wounded when he tried to stop two robbers outside the National Westminster Bank in Golders Green Lane, north London, yesterday morning.

Police Constable Howard Jobson, aged 23, was taken to hospital with a gunshot wound and a broken leg.

The two robbers, armed with handguns, had snatched £24,000 being delivered by security men when PC Jobson and a colleague saw them. There was a struggle, during which PC Jobson was shot, and the robbers escaped.

They forced a woman out of an Audi car and hijacked it, then switched to a Capri, which they abandoned later.

One of the raiders was wearing a blue crash helmet.

Foot police 'do not cut crime'

By David Walker Social Policy Correspondent

Putting more policemen back on the beat – the conventional wisdom of recent years – does little to reduce crime, according to a Home Office study

The study says that a policeman patrolling on foot in London could expect to pass within a hundred yards of a burglary only once every eight years. Interviews with burlars and other criminals suggest they do not think more foot patrolling increases their chances of detection.

More policemen, it has found, make the public feel safer but do not seem to lead to any reductions in crime.

According to Dr Ronald Clarke and Mr Mike Hough, who are civil servants and authors of the study *Crime and Police Effectiveness*, the best way of cutting crime rates is to try to reduce opportunites – for example by controlling alcohol at football matches, marking personal properyy, installing caretakers in flats, closed circuit television surveillance and other "situational" measures.

Crime and Police Effectiveness by Ronald Clarke and Mike Hough (Stationery Office, £3.40).

Editor's dismissal was unfair

Lady Waller, the newspaper editor who was dismissed after taking an unofficial day off, was unfairly dismissed, an industrial tribunal ruled in Norwich yesterday.

The tribunal said, however, that Lady Waller, former editor of the *Waveney District Advertiser* based at Lowestoft, Suffolk, contributed "to a large extent to her own dismissal."

Because of her "blameworthy behaviour" the tribunal concluded it would not be right to order Lady Waller, aged 40, to be reinstated and any compensation award should be reduced by 75 per cent. The two sides have been given six weeks to agree on a remedy, failing which a settlement will be made at another hearing.

During the original five-day hearing it was claimed that Lady Waller, of Leman Road, Gorleston, Norfolk, the former wife of the poet, Sir John Waller, had been the worse for drink at editorial conferences and was often difficult to locate after lunch.

The tribunal ruled that while some of her behaviour had been blameworthy the company had acted "unreasonably in treating her conduct as a sufficient reason for dismissing her."

Aircraft debris misses people by inches

Houses and cars were damaged and people ran for cover yesterday as pieces from what was believed to be a Boeing aircraft fell on an area of Berkshire.

Mr John Hodder, of Hurst, near Wokingham, said he and his son James, aged 13, missed death by inches when chunks of aluminium metal fell from the skies around them.

One piece landed on the roof of his house, making a 3ft hole. Other bits landed on cars and gardens nearby.

A spokesman for the British Airports Authority at Heathrow said that a Pan American jumbo jet took off from Heathrow at lunchtime and returned shortly after, with one engine shut down.

He would not comment on the cause of the fault or if the debris in Berkshire was connected with the plane. He also refused to confirm or deny reports that a jumbo aircraft had landed at the airport minus an engine cowling. Investigations into the incident were underway, he said.

Mr Hodder said: "I was working outside just after midday when I heard a terrific crashing noise. I looked up and saw dozens of pieces of metal falling down. Suddenly there was another crash and a piece slammed onto my roof.

"It made a big hole and then tumbled onto the ground. It was green and covered in oil. The pieces must have come from a plane because they look crumpled and jagged.

Adam Knights, aged 13, who lives next door to Mr and Mrs Hodder, said that one of the pieces of debri bounced off his mother's car, leaving a large dent and scratching the paintwork. He dived for cover as the debris fell.

"About ten large pieces of metal spreads over several gardens around and some more landed on the golf course behind us", he said.

Ambulance and fire brigade controls in Berkshire were alerted as police were inundated with calls about the incident.

Pakistan accused by Indian press of training Sikh rebels

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The Indian Government is taking seriously allegations that Pakistan may be involved in training guerrillas.

The Home Minister, Mr P. C. Sethi, told the Lok Sabha (the lower house of Parliament) that the Research and Analysis Wing of the Cabinet Secretariat, India's equivalent of the CIA, has been asked to verify allegations in the press about the links between extremists and foreign agencies.

Newspapers have been claiming that an interantional "hit squad" has been approached to carry out assassinations of leading Indian political figures. The targets would include Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, her son, Raji, two opposition leaders most prominent in denunciation of the Sikh agitators, Mr Charan Singh and Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and the two most senior intelligence figures in the country.

Newspapers also claimed that some Pakistanis dressed as Sikhs have been found in India among the Sikh warriors class, the Nihangs. A number of arrested Nihangs were found to have been circumcised (Muslims are circumcised but Sikhs and Hindus are not).

Allegations yesterday have become even more far-fetched. According to one report, a Pakistan general, whose name is given only as Iqbal, has crossed the border into India and is masterminding the Sikh rebel strategy.

Evidence for the theory of an external military mastermind is held to be found in the well-organized and coordinated way in which recent attacks have been carried out, most notably the weekend fire storm on 37 countryside railway stations throughout Punjub. The military-style attack on the Hindu procession in Amritsar's vegetable market a week ago is also cited.

Late last year, a senior official told me that the Government had cause to suspect Pakistan's involvement with the Sikh agitators. While it would seem logical for Pakistan to take an interest in stirring up trouble in a sensitive border area like Punjab – no less than it would have seemed logical for India to have been interested in the troubles in Pakistan's Sind Province last year – it seems unlikely that it would send anyone as senior as a full general into the country, particularly since the newspapers identify General Iqbal as the fifth in Pakistan's military hierarchy.

Mainland tie losing support

Poll highlights Zanzibar unrest

By Leslie Plommer

Zanzibar's one-candidate presidential election on April 19 seems unlikely to solve political unrest on the island where a confused and cynical populace has so far this year seen top ministers purged, several leading figures detained, an influx of mainland Tanzanian troops and an extra invasion of shadowy plainclothes security men.

The lone candidate is Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the 59-year-old interim President, who is a former school teacher, ambassador and Cabinet minister. He has increased the minimum wage by 25 per cent in the election run-up and is touring the island exhorting audiences to resist what he calls internal and external enemies of the 20-year-old union with Tanzania.

But the secret police are omnipresent, surprise raids continue – albeit with a lighter touch – on the homes of suspected dissidents and suspicion of the authorities remains rife on an island long susceptible to intrigue.

Mail is vetted and internal surveillance has increased since Mr Saleh Ameir, a senior Zanzibar security officer, visited Britain late last year for training in telephone-bugging and medium-range recording equipment which were shipped back to the island, a knowledgeable and independent source told *The Times*.

Assessments of popular support in Zanzibar for secession from the union are varied, although there is undeniably wide opposition to continuing on the present terms; and February's political purge has failed to quell this sentiment.

The political crisis climaxed in early February when President Aboud Jumbe, of Zanzibar who is also Vice-President of Tanzania, resigned after six days of heated criticism at an emergency meeting of the ruling party's national executive in the official Tanzanian capital Dodoma.

Mr Jumbe, was apparently caught between two groups of opponents:

On one hand, a faction of the old guard with some allies among junior ministers accused him of sacrificing the island's economic and political interests to those of the mainland.

On the other hand, many party colleagues at the national meeting criticized him for failing to crack down on his old guard, with the so-called committee of 14 at its core. Some accused him of working with some of these elements.

These entrenched interests make up only part of the autonomist movement in Zanzibar but the old guard has sought to use the movement to shore up its power, which ahs been fading since it overthrew the Sultan of Zanzibar in 1964 and ruled supreme with Abeid Amani Karume, the island's first President, until his assassination in 1972.

With Mr Jumbe out of the way, the process of moving his men from key posts began immediately.

Mr Bashir Abssah Kway-Swanzi, the Zanzibar Attorney-General, and his predecessor, Mr Wolfango Dourado, were arrested. Mr Jumbe's Chief Minister, Brigadier Ramadhan Haji Faki, and Mr Aboud Taib, a Minister of State, were forced to resign. Brigiadier Haji was put under house arrest.

Mr Dourado, a lawyer trained at the Middle Temple, is still being held in Dar es-Salaam facing possible treason charges.

Mr Dourado argues that the 1964 Zanaibar-Tanganyika Articles of Union envisaged an equal federation rather than a union in which the 500,000 Zanzibaris would inevitably be subordinate to 18 million Tanzanians and he is now a leading advocate of automony.



Washington dove: Vice-President George Bush arrives in Geneva for talks on a treaty banning chemical weapons.

Bush ready to unveil chemical arms ban

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

An Amelcan draft treaty to ban chemical weapons worldwide is being presented in the 40-nation United Nations conference on disarmament today by Vice-President George Bush, who arrived here yesterday.

In its 10-week spring session, the conference so far has failed to achieve any tangible progress on controlling chemical, nuclear, radiological or anti-satellite weapons. It has been marking time ever since Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, announced in Stockholm in mid-January that the Administration was putting forward a convention for "complete and verifiable elimination of chemical weapons".

The most opportune moment came last month, after official American condemnation of Iraq for using chemical weapons in the Gulf war, followed by the confirmation report from the group of experts sent to Iran.

At that moment, in the initial wave of international revulsion at the Iraqi's action, it would have been less easy for the Russians to assert in advance that the United States draft had become mixed up with the Administration's election strategy.

The crux remains inspection for verifying compliance with a ban. Whil Moscow is now prepared to accept the "permanent presence" of international inspectors during destruction of chemical munitions at designated sites, it rejects as "excessively intrusive" the concept of ad hoc visits under the inspection-by-challenge principle.

● MOSCOW: Tass yesterday condemned the US draft treaty on chemical weapons (Reuter reports). It said President Reagan was only pretending that the draft treaty offered a way of banning chemical warfare.

"In fact, Washington's initiative has nothing to do with this at all. Its purpose is to block efforts to reach any agreement by putting forward obviously unacceptable conditions and to camouflage plans for building US chemical arsenals," Tass said.

Purchase of £4.6m jet defended by Prèmier

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

The Queensland Government, led by the redoubtable Mr Joh Bjelke-Petersen, is to buy a $A7.5m (£4.6m) Hawker-Siddeley 125-800 eight-seater executive jet aircraft, which the Premier will fly occasionally.

The addition of the British-made jet will bring the Queensland Government's fleet to five aircraft. It is expected to take delivery next year of a $A4m Lear Fan jet which it ordered two years ago. It already has two Beechcraft Air Kings, a Cessna and a helicopter.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen, aged 73, who has been flying for 34 years, yesterday defended the Cabinet decision to buy the aircraft.

Mr Keith Wright, the state opposition leader, said that the Premier had a serious obligation to justify the huge outlay. "He owes it to the public. The Government says it does not have money for roads or housing or additional teachers, nurses or police, yet splurges $A7.5m on a nice new jet".

An irritated Mr Bjelke-Petersen, when asked if the money could have been better spent, said: "There's no need for me to justify. I am not as stupid as that. I know there is a real need for it."

Brunette and sniffer dogs guard Prince Andrew

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Flanked by a heavy contingent of US Secret Service agents, including an attractive young brunette assigned to be one of his bodyguards who draw a great deal of attention from television and press photoraphers, Prince Andrew spent Monday promoting British products, inspecting aircraft and reminiscing about Gordonstoun.

Although his visit is described as private, there are almost as many bodyguards as photographers dogging his footsteps in security-conscious California. He got off to a late start because police with a dog trained to sniff out explosives spent an hour making sure a hotel was safe before he arrived for a breakfast to boost Britain in a Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce promotion fortnight.

At McDonnell Douglas aircraft company in Long Beach, he showed great interest in a new helicopter which will be used by police and the military at this summer's Olympic Games.

Although fascinated by Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose, the largest seaplane ever built, with a 320ft wingspan, he refused to try the pilot's seat for size.

Dubcek fall celebrated by regime in Prague

Prague (AFP) – The Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party met here yesterday, 15 years to the day since Mr Alexander Dubcek was replaced by Mr Gustave Husak as Secretary-General.

The party newspaper, *Rude Pravo*, devoted a whole page to the anniversary of the end of what the West called the Prague Spring. Mr Husak was described as a "communist with principles, a passionate patriot and internationalist who has always been on the side of working class without fear or regret".

● MOSCOW: In an article marking the otherthrow of Mr Dubcek, *Pravada* said his brief rule had demonstrated the threat to ruling parties from "internal reactionary groups", and showed they must always remain loyal to orthodox communist ideology, (Reuter reports).

The Russian intervention in August, 1968, had shown that Moscow and its allies would not "leave a country in need" if Soviet-style communist rule was under threat. "Nobody will be allowed to turn back the wheel of history," *Pravada* said.

Battle rages on for control of Khmer camp

Ban Sangae, Thai-Cambodian border (APF) – The battle for the headquarters of Cambodia's main non-communist resistance group is not over yet.

Guerrillas were digging in at this resistance enclave yesterday to resist an expected further Vietnamese onslaught. Contrary to earlier reports, the Vietnamese have not yet seized or destroyed the camp itself.

However, they have broken the forward defence lines of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, led by Son Sann. The guerrillas, after falling back under heavy artillery barrages on Sunday, have dug in close to the Vietnamese. At some points the two forces are no more than 200 yards apart.

● PEKING: China yesterday reported fresh border clashes with Vietnam and said at least 26 Vietnamese troops were killed or wounded (Reuter reports). The official New China news agency said three clashes took place along the border of China's southern Guangxi region between April 9 and 12.

Sabotage in Nicaragua leads CIA into congressional minefield

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

It was December when President Reagan authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to place small, magnetic mines in the principal harbours of Nicaragua. The CIA directed the operation from a small ship in the Pacific, just beyond the 12-mile limit.

From there Latin American commandos, trained by the CIA, went on mining missions. They were successful. Soon, the first ship hit a mine – a Soviet tanker on its way to Puerto Dandino of the Pacific coast. Three of four seamen were injured and Russian protests quickly flowed thick and heavy.

The CIA had also directed mining in the Pacific port of Corinto, Nicaragua's main oil depot, and at El Bluff on the Atlantic. According to the Nicaraguans, several of its nationals died during mine-sweeping operations in Corinto, the most important of the three ports.

Corinto is an impoverished village several hours' drive from Managua. On the way one passes a few Soviet field hospitals but, as in all of Nicaragua, the Russian presence is not flouted. In Corinto the poverty is grotesque. This is where late last year several huge oil storage tanks along the waterfront blew up, scattering jagged chunks of metal over the village.

The explosion wiped out between a third and a half of Nicaragua's oil reserves and the government-controlled press declared the following day: "CIA attacks Corinto". The Americans never denied involvement.

Now that CIA participation in the laying of harbour mines near Corinto is public knowledge, few people seriously doubt that the agency also had a hand in the Corinto oil tank operation.

It was the most devastating single act of sabotage against the Sandinista regime, carried out with precision from a small craft that made good its escape northwards, towards Honduras. Witnesses told me in Corinto the day after the attack that they had seen what looked like mortars, but operated from the shoulder, being fired at the tanks from the craft. A little earlier a small spotter-plane had circled the area, they said.

That affair, together with the harbour mines, has raised grave issues in Washington. Not only are there questions from most leading Democrats, and some Republicans, about whether the United States ought to be conducting a secret war against Nicaragua, there is the broader question of the presidential prerogative to wage hostilities against a foreign power without some kind of clear congressional sanction.

There is clearly a great deal of confusion in Congress about what is going on. Thirteen days ago the Senate overwhelmingly approved $21m (£14.5m) in aid to the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN).

The harbour mining became public knowledge the next day in leaks to the *Wall Street Journal* and others. The ensuing public outcry has persuaded some senators on the committee to say they voted in ignorance of the full facts. Others say they could not publicly protest about the mining until now, because the information was classified.

The Administration, through its usual leakage channels, has said that the mining operation has ended and will not be resumed. The White House is now conducting an intensive lobbying effort to win support in the House of Representatives for the $21m aid. The request has been snarled up in the House since it left the Senate.

Some form of compromise will emerge, as it will in President Reagan's other big Central America battle with Congress – his desire to send $62m in emergency military and medical aid to El Salvador. Both battles are demonstrations of an increasing determination by Congress to restrain President Reagan in his drive to raise the strikes in Central America and also to assert itself in determining if, when, and where the United States takes military action – whether covert, overt, direct or indirect.



Iron guard: Mrs Thatcher inspecting a guard of honour after arriving in Lisbon yesterday. With her is Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister.

Thatcher ready to welcome Lisbon in reformed EEC

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon

Mrs Thatcher started a three-day official visit yesterday, saying Britain wants to welcome Portugal in 1986 to the EEC, but to one reformed on the basis of fairer distribution of burdens and benefits.

"There is work for both of us to do there," she said in a speech prepared for last night's banquet at Sintra, the former summer residence of Portuguese kings. It was given by Dr Mario Soares, the Prime Minister.

Earlier, after lunch at the Prime Minister's residence, Mrs Thatcher had talks and addressed Parliament.

Dr Soares's prepared reply for the banquet carefully avoided any appearance of taking sides among the Ten. He appealed to all EEC leaders to display courage and vision and to cut the Gordian Knot of financial problems.

Mrs Thatcher had said in her speech that Portugal's entry had been too long delayed and that negotiations should be concluded this year. But, she added: "We in Britain remain determined to achieve the reforms which the Community needs. With these reforms behind it, the Community can make a fresh start."

Mrs Thatcher, the first British Prime Minister to make an official visit to Portugal, said it was on her honeymoon that she had last been in Lisbon.

When she arrived from London yesterday, in pleasant spring weather, she said a visit by a British Prime minister was "greatly overdue" in the more than 600 years of alliance

Both were maritime nations, Mrs Thatcher said, which had achieved world wide influence, something which still retained an interest for each of them "and still inspires a great deal of our action".

China still aims for deal in September

From David Bonavia
Peking

The form of future democratic institutions for Hongkong has been "touched on" in the talks here this week between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and senior Chinese officials, an informed source said yesterday.

The meetings with Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, and Mr Wu Xueqian, the Foreign Minister, have been aimed at clarifying certain points, the source said. The English-language official newspaper, *China Daily*, yesterday quoted Mr Wu as saying that China still regards September as the deadline for a solution of the Hongkong issue.

Britain disagrees about the need for a deadline, but both countries would like to reach broad agreement on Hongkong by about midsummer, so that Parliament can debate the question after the recess.

Sir Geoffrey will meet Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese elder statesman, today. He will then fly to Hongkong and give a press conference about the talks on Good Friday before visiting South Korea and Japan.

The Foreign Secretary's Peking visit was timed "to review at ministerial level" the progress achieved in the 18-month talks, not to formalize an agreement, the source said.

Regarding the differences still existence between the negotiators, a British source said: "They (the Chinese) start from a different historical point of view."

This was evidently a reference to Peking's view – already substantially accepted by Britain – that Hongkong, Kowloon and the New Territories were seized from China under duress in the nineteenth century, and that the treaties governing their status are therefore invalid.

There have been growing signs of dissatisfaction among the Hongkong public over the secrecy surrounding the talks, and Sir Geoffrey is expected to face a grilling from the local press on Fiday.

Germans heading for national strike

Düsseldorf (Reuter) – West Germany faces the possibility of its first big strike since 1978 as talks between the country's biggest union and employers broke down yesterday over the issue of a 35-hour week.

Herr Hans Mayr, leader of I G Metall, the 2.5 million-strong metalworkers' union, said he assumed the first ballots recommending a national strike would be held in the first week of May. His union is traditionally the trendsetter in the annual wage round.

Both Herr Mayr and Herr Wolfram Thiele, representing the employers, saw no possibility of fresh negotiations.

Bomb recess

Canberra (AP) – An elaborate bomb hoax led to evacuation of the Australian Parliament building yesterday. Police linked the incident to a rash of bomb threats by a group claiming to be radical anti-nuclear activists.

Bahais shot

Six more Bahais have been executed in Evin prison, Tehran, and more bodies unceremoniously buried, sources in London learnt. Their families were not notified. The dead included Kamran Lutfi, aged 32, university professor and Rahim Rahimiyan, 50, businessman, both jailed since last May, and Yadullah Saberian, 60, printing press manager, held more than two years.

Top thriller



Pop singer, Michael Jackson (above), severely burnt last January when fireworks ignited his hair during a Pepsi Cola commercial, undergoes scalp surgery at Culver City, California, today. Extra guards at the hospital will hold off the fans. His latest album *Thriller* has already sold 25 million copies.

High service

Moscow (AP) – The Progress 20 cargo ship carrying fuel, equipment and life-support items, docked with the orbiting Salyut space station which since February 8 has had a three-man crew. They were reported to be well.

SS victory

Oberaula (Reuter) – At a stormy meeting, councillors in this West German village which played host to a controversial reunion of veterans of Hitler's SS "Death's Head" tank division, rejected a motion to ban such meetings in future.

Correction

In an article on April 13 on Tamil militants operating from south India, Mr A. A. Rahim, from India's External Affairs Ministry, should have been quoted as saying: "There are no caches of arms or training camps on Indian territory."

Salvadorean rebels kill 37 soldiers in ambush

From John Carlin
San Salvador

Government forces in El Salvador have suffered their worst losses in one military action this year. Military sources here said that 37 soldiers were killed and 14 wounded in a guerrilla ambush on Monday on the Pan-American Highway, the country's principal road.

The soldiers were travelling in a convoy of five lorries when the guerrillas fired on them from all sides with rifles, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. The ambush took place about 40 miles east of the capital in the central province of San Vicente.

That the Army should have presented such an easy target on a vital, much travelled road can only be bad for troop morale as the run-off presidential election on May 6 draws near.

Rebel sources in Mexico City said recently that there is serious talk among the guerrilla leadership of launching an all-out offensive shortly after the run-off elections.

Managua hits back at Pastora rebels

Managua (Reuter) – Nicaraguan troops have been fighting anti-government rebels along the country's south-east coast, where insurgents say they have gained a foothold.

Officials did not confirm that rebels of the Costa Rican-based Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (Arde) had occupied the southern port of San Juan del Norte and a 30-mile strip along the sparsely populated coast.

The Nicaraguan Defence Ministry said no information on the operation would be released until it was over. In Costa Rica, the *Prensa Libre* newspaper yesterday quoted the Arde chief, Señor Eden Pasora, known as Commander Zero, as saying that the Sandinista Government had mounted a sea-and-air counter-offensive to recapture the port.

Speaking to reporters by radio from San Juan del Norte, he said nine vessels, aircraft and Soviet-made MiG heliopters were pounding rebel positions round the port, occupied last Friday by 450-man Arde force after three days of fierce fighting.

Señor Pastora said Arde forces had surrounded Bluefields, Nicaragua's most important Atlantic port, with a population of 40,000, 60 miles north of San Juan del Norte. A hero of the 1979 Sandinista revolution which he now opposes, Señor Pastora said 10,000 rebels were involved

In San Jose, the Costa Rican Foreign Affairs Minister, Señor Carlos José Gutiérrez, denied that the attack on San Juan del Norte had been launched from Costa Rica.

San Juan del Norte is the first town in Nicaragua to be occupied by anti-government rebels.

The Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), a bigger rebel group operating in the north with financial help from the United States, has failed to occupy any sizable area in almost two years of fighting.

Ugandans flee Karamoja cattle raiders

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi

Tens of thousands of people are homeless and scores have died after attacks by cattle raiders from Karamoja, north-east Uganda, in the past few weeks.

According to the Uganda Army magazine published in Kampala, 10,000 people had fled into the Town of Soroti from areas close to the Karamoja border,

The Karamojong tribes, who were badly hit by severe drought four years ago, have been raiding adjoining tribes in both Kenya and Uganda.

Brazil regime attempts to damp down discontent

From Patrick Knight
São Paulo

As about a million people gathered in the latest of a series of peaceful mass demonstrations in the centre of São Paulo on Monday night, the Brazilian Government announced proposals for the presidential election after the next one to be by direct suffrage. It made a last ditch attempt to head off the wave of public opinion calling for direct elections now.

The Government has proposed that, if the leading candidate gets more than 40 per cent of the popular vote, he will be elected. If he gets less Congress will choose between the contenders. the President's term of office would be reduced from six to four years, with the next elections in 1988.

In further concessions, the Government has announced that prefects of cities and towns now nominated by governors will be chosen directly in 1986, when there will be general elections,

President Figueiredo: his remarks complicated the issue.

Leading article, page 13

Bonn fears refugee flow will turn into trickle

From John England, Bonn

If high-level pessimists in Bonn have got it right, the East German regime's apparently generous new policy of letting thousands of people emigrate to West Germany will end next month.

That is when, if current resettlement rates are maintained, about 20,000 East Germans will have moved to West Germany since the new year. This compares with 11,300 for the whole of 1983.

West German press speculation earlier this year saw a possible total of 50,000 East Germans being allowed to leave their country by next December. But Herr Philipp Jenninger, the state minister in the Bonn chancellery responsible for inner-German policies, put a damper on expectations.

He said in a radio interview last weekend that most of the East Germans allowed out since January had families in West Germany and many of them were "old in cases", people who had applied for permission to leave East Germany years ago.

The balance of the roughly 20,000 East Germans who fell into these categories would have resettled in the West by the middle or the end of May, he said.

Herr Jenninger did not say if Bonn thought that new applications to leave East Germany would have little or no chance of success. However, it appears that East Berlin has begun a publicity campaign aimed at discouraging them.

East German newspapers last weekend carried front-page reports under the heading "Sixty thousand a year emigrate from West Germany" and said the "exodus" had increased because of the stationing of new United States nuclear missiles.

Newspapers and radio stations in East Germany have also featured West German news media interviews with East German emigrants whose first impressions of their new home were negative.

The West German press said that up to five hundred thousand East Germans want to leave their country. The Bonn Ministry for Inner-German Relations says it cannot confirm that but adds that it knows that some "tens of thousands" have applied for an exit permit.

A ministry spokesman said: "How many of those will be allowed out is a matter of pure speculation but we will accept everyone who comes over. We are bound to by our constitution, as well as the humanitarian factor."

A pharaoh's tomb lets off steam

From Our Correspondent
Cairo

Strange happenings in the burial chamber of the Pharaoh Khephren, the second biggest pyramid at Giza, has led the Egyptian authorities to put it off limits to visitors for the time being.

Some tourists who had climbed into the burial chamber of the pharaoh on Monday complained to officials of the Autiquites Department that they had experienced eye irritation, headaches and nausea while in the chamber. The symptoms were attributed to some mysterious gas emanating from the burial chamber.

On Tuesday, one of the experts who spent more than an hour in the chamber said the gas was gone and the chamber was "pure". He added that the pyramid would be reopened.

However, a spokesman for the Antiquities Department said that, though the gas seemed to have dissipated, the authorities would wait for the test reports before reopening the pyramid.

He speculated that the gases could have seeped into the chamber from subteranean pools of water known to exist beneath the Giza plaueau.

Second chance for Craxi

From Peter Nichols
Rome

The Italian Cabinet last night approved an anti-inflationary measure to succeed an ill-fated decree which expired at midnight on Monday after Communist obstructionism in Parliament prevented its conversion into law.

The new decree is almost identical to that which failed, except that its effect is limited to the firs six months of the year.

The principal point on which the Communists attacked the defunct decree was its limitation of the system of automatic wage increases to 10 per cent this year.

The Senate approved the measure on March 23. Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, took his anti-inflationary policy as symbolic of his intention to provide the country with effective government.

Some of his coalition allies, mainly the Christian Democrats, were unhappy at the bitterness of the battles between Government and Opposition in Parliament, and at the split over the decree on largely party lines within the trade union movement.

Lagos gets tough with press

Lagos (Reuter) The Nigerian military Government published a new press law yesterday giving it the power to close newspapers and radio stations and to jail journalists for inaccurate reporting.

A decree puts the onus of proof on the person charged with publishing a report that is false in any material particular, or that brings the Government or officials into ridicule or disrepute.

Trial will be by special tribunal under the chairmanship of a High Court judge sitting with three military officers.

An individual would be liable to a maximum jail term of two years. The tribunal can fine a publishing orgnization a minimum of 10,000 naira (about £9,000) and the Government will have the power to shut newspapers or radio stations for 12 months if they are deemed "detrimental to the interest of the federation".

No appeal will be allowed against the decision of a tribunal.

Senior officers have said the aim of the decree is to force lazy journalists to investigate a story properly to establish its accuracy. However, newspapers fear that the Government will consider only its own version of a story to be accurate and will use the decree to propagate its views.

Buhari's first 100 days: Part 3

Honeymoon ends but divorce is out

This is the third of three articles by ***Kenneth Mackenzie*** *on Nigeria after 100 days of military rule.*

"The big question remains: Is there a viable alternative? And the answer in 'No'."

Thus a Nigerian journalist at the end of a long and impassioned analysis of the military Government under General Muhammad Buhari.

His is a view that is widely shared and underlies the ending of the honeymoon period with the new rulers. But nobody wants a return of the civilian regime of President Shehu Shagari that was overthrown on December 31.

People have become convinced that under the Shagari men there was corruption and enrichment of a few at the top on a scale previously unknown in Nigeria. The trials about to begin should provide evidence of this.

The main culprits are said to be members of the former ruling party, the National Party, of Nigeria, but former state governors of the other main parties are also in detention, presumably with cases to answer. And there is public disgust at the way all members of the federal and state assemblies enriched themselves, by huge salaries and allowances and by corruption.

The public is in fact disillusioned with all civilian politicians, and a simple return to party politics is not now a viable alternative.

In practice, the only real possibility for change is that Gereral Buhari and his colleagues will be replaces in a counter-coup by another set of officers, probably more junior and more radically-minded. Rumour has it that at least one coup attempt was frustrated in the first 100 days.

A so-called "majors' coup" would almost certainly mean bloodshed – the killing of senior officers and former politicians – and chaos.

There is an awareness, even among the harshest Buhari critics, of the qualities of the present military rulers. They are mature, thoughtful men, almost all experienced in goverument, showing some respect for freedom and the rule of law and basically concerned with the well-being of the Nigerian people.

These are not small things, and should put criticisms of the Government in perspective. But there is certainly cause for criticism.

My journalistic friend was worried about the decree under which politicians face trial by military tribunal: it allows no appeal, has an absurd 21-year minimum sentence and in important areas shifts the onus of proof from the prosecution to the defence.

The press generally is nervous. Two well-known commentators, Tai Solarin and Haroun Adamu, are in detention: the Government has floated vague allegations against them, but most people believe that it is because of their hard-hitting views that they are in prison.

Life is difficult under Buhari. The discussion quoted above took place in a house in Surulere, Lagos, in the dark, because electricity had failed, as it does every day. (The Government has, however, sacked four eletricity authority directors and asked for EEC help, which may eventually bring back light.)

The front door was necessarily barred and padlocked against armed robbers.

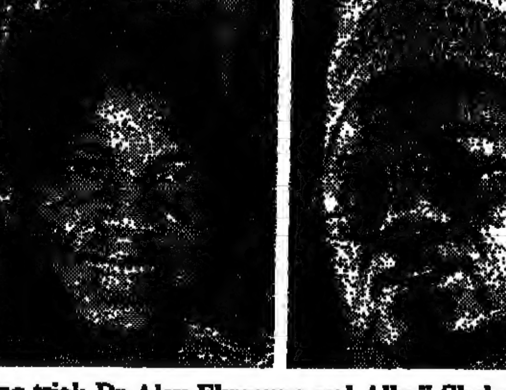
My host's subscriptions to *Time* and the *Economist* had ended through lack of foreign exchange. The cake of soap in the bathroom cost three times what it did a few weeks ago.

Inflation, which causes discomfort to the middle classes, causes misery and hunger to the poor and unemployed. These are tense times in Lagos.

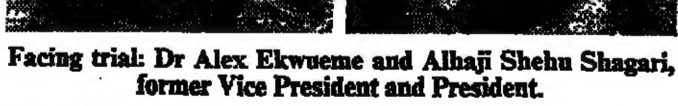
Not discussed in public, but a continual cause of passionate debate, is the danger that this tension should assume a divisive, ethnic character.

The feeling that this was a "northern" coup – the replacement of the northern civilian establishment by the northern military establishment – has not faded. One hears the incendiary words, "northern, hegemony".

The military rulers are, of course, aware of this danger, and do their best to guard against it. They scrupulously "observe the federal character" in all appointments. It is another reason why there is no viable alternative: if the present order breaks down, the whole fabric of the country will be threatened.







Facing trial: Dr Alex Ekwueme and Alhaji Shehu Shagari, former Vice President and President.

Duties of pension fund trustees

In re Mineworkers' Pension Scheme Trusts
Cowan and Others v Scargill and Others

Before Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor

[Judgment delivered April 13]

In proceedings by the five trustees *appointed by the National Coal* Board against the five trustees appointed by the National Union of Mineworkers, all members of the committee of management of the Mineworkers Pension Scheme, the *Vice-Chancellor held in the Chancery* Division that the defendant trustees would be acting in breach of their fiduciary duties as members of the committee and as trustees of its money and investments if they refused to concur in the adoption of an investment strategy and business plan which had been initially presented to a meeting of the committee on June 9, 1982.

The defendants had refused to accept the plan unless it was *amended so that there would be no* increase in the percentage of overseas investment, that overseas investments already made were withdrawn at an opportune time, and unless the committee adopted a proposal within the plan of not investing in energies which were in direct competition with coal, but the Vice-Chancellor said he would make declarations to the effect that the investment strategy and business plan of 1982 as initially put to the committee should be adopted by the committee and that it should be implemented.

Mr Samuel Stamler, QC and Mr Patrick Howell for the NCB trustees; Mr Arthur Scargill in person.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said the main issue was whether the defendants had been in breach of their fiduciary duty in refusing to approve a plan for the investment of the funds of the pension scheme without the prohibitions they wanted on overseas investments and in energies in direct competition with coal. The scheme covered all industrial employees of the National Coal Board and there was a parallel scheme for the board's non-industrial staff called the NCB Staff Superannuation Scheme.

The two schemes worked together in various ways: there was a joint investment subcommittee composed of representatives of the committees of each of the schemes which dealt with the detail of the investment of the funds of the two schemes.

The funds of each scheme were very large, each being worth something in the region of £3,000m, with some £200m being available for investment each year.

There was an advisory panel of investment experts to assist the joint investment subcommittee, and the coal board's director-general of investments, who was secretary of the subcommittee, headed a large staff which carried out most of the work of managing the funds.

The powers of investment were very wide and there were wide provisions for appointing agents and for delegation.

The scheme was fully funded, members of the pension scheme and the board making basic contributions of about the same total amount but the board also made deficiency payments to accord with actuarial valuations. In addition, the board had been making further voluntary contributions so that pensions kept place with inflation.

The net result was that something of the order of two-thirds of the payments came from the board and one third from the members.

The law on the duties of trustees was that they should exercise their powers in the best interests of the present and future beneficiaries of the trust, holding the scales impartially between different classes of beneficiaries.

First, the duty towards their beneficiaries was paramount. They had of course to obey the law but, subject to that, they had to put the interests of their beneficiaries first, and when the purpose was to *provide financial benefits for* beneficiaries, as was usually the case, their best interests were normally their best financial interests.

A power of investment, as in the present case, had to be exercised so as to yield the best return for the beneficiaries, judged in relation to the risks of the investment in question, and the prospects of the yield of income and capital appreciation both had to be considered in judging the return from the investment.

A second point was that in considering what investments to make, trustees had to put on one side their own personal interests and *views: they might hold strong social* or political views: they might be firmly opposed to any investment in South Africa or other countries, or they might object to investment in companies concerned with alcohol, tobacco, or armaments: in the conduct of their own affairs of course, they were free to abstain from making any such investments.

Yet if, under a trust, investments of that type would be more beneficial to the beneficiaries than some others, the trustees must not refrain from making such investments by reason of the views they held.

Third, by way of caveat, it should be said there was no assertion that the benefit of beneficiaries which had to be made a trustee's paramount concern inevitably meant their financial benefit.

Thus, if the actual or potential beneficiaries were all adults with strict views on moral and social matters, condemning alcohol, tobacco and popular entertainment, as well as armaments, it could be well understood that it might not be for the 'benefit' of those beneficiaries to know that they were getting larger returns from investments in those activities than if the trustees had put the funds in other investments.

'Benefit' was a word with a very *wide meaning and there were* circumstances where arrangements to the financial disadvantage of a beneficiary might yet be for his benefit. However, the present was not that type of case.

Fourth, the standard required of a trustee in exercising his powers of investment was that he should take the care of an ordinary prudent man if he was making an investment for the benefit of other people for whom he felt morally bound to provide, *and that duty included the duty to* seek advice on matters he did not understand.

That requirement was not discharged merely by showing that he had acted in good faith and with sincerity. Honesty and sincerity were not the same as prudence and reasonableness. Some of the most sincere people were the most unreasonable, and the first defendant had said that he had met quite a few of them.

So, although a trustee taking advice was not bound to act on it, he was not entitled to reject it merely because he sincerely disagreed with it, unless in addition to being sincere he was acting as an ordinary prudent man would act.

Fifth, the trustees had a duty to consider the need for diversification of investments, as required by section 6 of the Trustee Investments Act 1961. In the present case, it was not in issue that there ought to be *diversification: the contention of* the defendants in short was that there could be a sufficient degree of diversification without any investment overseas or in oil and that there was in any case no need to *increase overseas investment be*yond the existing level.

However, even if in some cases, other funds had done better without overseas investment than in the present case, that did not begin to show that it was to the benefit of the pension fund to be shorn of the ability to invest overseas.

Sixth, there was a question whether the principles stated would apply with or without modification to trusts of pension funds.

There seemed no reason why different principles should apply to pension fund trusts from those applying to other trusts although there could be many provisions in pension schemes which were not to be found in private trusts, and to those the general law would be subordinated, but the large size of pension funds emphasized the need for diversification, rather than *lessening it, and the fact that much* of the fund had been contributed by members of the scheme made it even more important that the trustees should act in the best interests of the beneficiaries.

There was no justification for holding that the benefits to beneficiaries should run the risk of being lessened because trustees were pursuing an investment policy intended to assist the industry which pensioners had left, or to assist the union.

The court could see no escape from the conclusion that the defendant trustees were attempting to impose their prohibitions on certain investments in order to carry out union policy, and mere assertions that their sole consideration was for the benefit of the beneficiaries did not alter that conclusion.

No doubt some trustees with *strong feelings found it irksome* to be forced to submerge those feelings and genuinely put the interests of the beneficiaries first; indeed some were temperamentally unsuited to being trustees and were more fitted for campaigning for changes in the law. That, of course, they were free to do, but if they chose to become trustees they would have to accept that the rules of equity would bind them in all that they did as trustees.

The court would be making suitable declarations to accord with its conclusions, and liberty would be given to the coal board trustees to apply for directions or other appropriate relief if the declarations were not duly acted upon. It was *much to be hoped that there would* be no need to consider the exercise of the court's inherent power to remove trustees.

Solicitors: Freshfields; Brian Thompson & Partners.

Correction

In *Rudgwick Clay Works Ltd v Baker and Another (The Times,* April 13) the solicitor for the plaintiff company was James Brice & Co.

Calculating periodical payments of husband

Freeman v Swatridge

Before Lord Justice Dunn and Mr Justice Wood

[Judgment delivered April 16]

There was no rule of law when determining, in matrimonial proceedings, the amount of periodical payments that the husband's residual income should not be reduced below a "subsistence level" of the amount he was receiving by way of supplementary benefit.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an unemployed husband's appeal against an order of periodical payments of £1 a child a week for his three children by his first marriage.

Mr Ian Albutt for the appellant: Mr Donald Lambie for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the first ground of appeal had been that the circuit judge had indicated that he wished to make a nominal order against the husband and that £1 a week was not a nominal order. His Lordship agreed; a nominal order was now virtually a term of art and represented 50p or £1 a year.

The second ground had been that the order reduced the husband below the subsistence level in that he was in receipt of supplementary benefit and that should be deemed to be the subsistence level.

However, while the amount of *supplementary benefit* provided a guide, the question to be asked was "how much of his earnings does this husband need?" Looking at it that way and taking into account the other factors in section 25 of the *Matrimonial Causes Act 1973*, the court should be able to reach a fair and reasonable judgment.

LORD JUSTICE DUNN, agreeing, said that in many, perhaps the majority of cases, the amount of supplementary benefit received would be the appropriate amount to satisfy his needs and enable him to be just above subsistence level.

However, those rates were not to be blindly applied; they were no more than a guide and in the present case there had been evidence which had justified the making of the very modest order in respect of each child.

Solicitors: Durnford Ford, Hastings; D.F. Rawlings & Co, Bexhill-on-Sea.

Artistic work has to be seen as a thing in itself

Merlet and Another v Mothercare plc

Before Mr Justice Walton

[Judgment delivered April 13]

In order for an object to be a work *of artistic craftsmanship* within section 3(1)(c) of the Copyright Act 1956, it had to be viewed as a thing in itself, a work of art.

A cutting plan could not be reproduced in three dimensions for the purposes of section 9(8) of the 1956 Act.

Mr Justice Walton so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division in refusing Mme Merlet's claim for an injunction restraining Mothercare from infringing her copyright in a prototype of and a cutting plan for the "Raincosy" baby's cape.

Mr Michael Fysh for Mme Merlet: Mr Robin Jacob, QC and Mr Jeremy Davies for Mothercare.

MR JUSTICE WALTON said that the Raincosy was a cape with a hood which had drawstrings which enabled the edges of the body of the cape to be drawn tighter to form a cocoon shape. The cape was attached to a baby sling and provided protection from the weather.

When Mme Merlet made the prototype cape she cut and pieced various bits of material together until she had achieved what she wanted, that is, something which looked nice because it was for her own use. At that stage there was no commercial purpose in her mind. It was only when she decided to manufacture baby capes to sell that she made a cutting plan.

Mothercare had copied a Raincosy and produced their own "Carrycape". They had used the Raincosy's measurements but made their own cutting plan which was quite different from Mme Merlet's.

In order to prove copyright in the *prototype* garment, it was necessary to show that it was a work of artistic craftsmanship within section 3(1)(c). Applying *George Hensher Ltd v Restawhile Upholstery (Lancs) Ltd* ([1975] RPC 31) his Lordship held that for an object to be of artistic craftsmanship it had to be judged as a thing in itself. You were to judge a baby cape as a baby cape, and not with reference to the baby that might be wrapped in it nor the mother to whom it might be attached.

Although it initially appeared that their Lordships in *Hensher* were laying down different and apparently irreconcilable tests for a work of artistic craftsmanship, his Lordship concluded that there was a clear majority for the view that the object had to be a work of art. In deciding whether the object was a work of art the court was not permitted to make a value judgment; it was primarily, though not solely, a question of the intention of the artist.

When creating the *Raincosy*, Mme Merlet did not have in mind the creation of a work of art in any shape or form. What she had in mind, was the utilitarian consideration of creating a barrier between the assumed rigours of a Highland summer and her baby in such a manner as to afford it complete protection, safely cocooned next to her warm body, in a stylish and attractive shape. It was a basic commodity item not a work of art.

In answer to Mme Merlet's claim that she had copyright in her cutting plan Mothercare relied on section 9 (8) of the 1956 Act which read: "The making of an object of any description which is in three dimensions shall not be taken to infringe the copyright in an artistic work in two dimensions, if the object would not appear, to persons who are not experts in relation to objects of that description, to be a reproduction of the artistic work."

In that they had to succeed for the simple reason that the artistic work, being no less and no more than a cutting plan, no garment in three dimensions could ever be or appear to be a reproduction of that plan in three dimensions. A cutting plan could not, at any rate in any normal case, be successfully reproduced in three dimensions, for its very essence was that it was intended to be reproduced in some shape or form on the top of a bale of cloth in its or its equivalent two dimensional form.

Section 9(8) neither allowed nor required one notionally to dissect the garment into its component parts; one had to look at the three dimensional garment and ask: "Does it appear to me to be a reproduction of the two dimensional work, namely the cutting plan, in three dimensions?" To ask the question was to answer it: it fell inevitably to be answered in the negative. It was quite different from *Solar Thomson Engineering Co Ltd v Barton* ([1977] RPC 537) in which the Court of Appeal held that with a sectional drawing, the notional observer should be treated as having a similarly sectioned piece to the three-dimensional object in his hand for the purposes of comparison.

Solicitors: Joynson-Hicks & Co; Coward Chance

Residence policy for grants

In re Cheung
In re Pau
Regina v Hereford and Worcester County Council, Ex parte *Novintan*

Before Mr Justice Glidewell

[Judgment delivered April 13]

The policy of the Department of Education and Science, set out in a circular sent to local authorities to assist them when faced with reconsideration of what they should do in relation to students who had been refused education grants on the wrong grounds before the definition of "ordinary residence" in *R v Barnet London Borough Council, Ex parte Nilish Shah* ([1983] AC 309) was a proper policy.

Any consideration by a local authority within the limits as set out in that policy satisfied any *requirement upon that authority* to reconsider.

Mr Justice Glidewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division in refusing the applicants, Raymond Siu Wah Cheung and Eric Hoi Wai *Pau, leave to move for judicial* review of decisions taken by their respective local authorities in 1978 and 1983, but allowing the applicant, Ali Reza Novintan, who had already been granted leave to move by Mr Justice Webster on November 25, 1983, to continue with that application.

Mr John Laws for the applicant Cheung and Pau; Mr Andrew Nicol for the applicant Novintan; Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, and Mr Robin Barratt for the local authorities.

MR JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that the three applicants came to the United Kingdom from abroad to *complete their education, having* obtained admission in 1978 to a university or a polytechnic. Their applications to their local authorities for grants that year had been refused on the ground that they were not "ordinarily resident" in the respective authority's area nor even in England.

Each applicant had entered upon and completed his course of study. None had sought to challenge the authorities' decisions.

Following the decision of the House of Lords in *Ex parte Shah* on December 16, 1982, the secretary of state had issued a circular to local authorities on March 30, 1983.

In effect, authorities should *reconsider cases where grants had* been refused for courses that began 1979/80 or later, but not any cases earlier "save in exceptional circumstances".

His Lordship said that the question he had to ask was whether the policy of the Department of Education was one which the authorities could lawfully adopt.

The local authorities were correct in their submissions that overturning the department's policy would be detrimental to good administration, and it was desireable to have certainty as regarded public expenditure. Furthermore, it was important that there should be *fairness and certainty* for all local authorities in deciding what and how far back to reconsider.

As to the applicants Cheung and Pau, Hertfordshire County Council and Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, had considered, following letters from their solicitors, whether there were exceptional circumstances. Therefore, their applications for leave failed.

As to the applicant Novintan, there was no evidence that the local *authority had considered* the question, or sought to be certain if there were exceptional circumstances. There was an unusual feature about his case which was capable of being an exceptional circumstance. The local authority's application to set aside the leave granted already therefore failed.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Mr W J Church, Hertford; Mr M Scott, Bootle; Mr J W Renney, Worcester.

Liability under Building Regulations

Fuller v Nicholas

Where structural alterations were carried out by a contractor for the owner of a building which was a limited company, a director of that company would not necessarily be liable for failure to comply with the Building Regulations (*S I* 1976 No 1676).

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Parker and Mr Justice Forbes) so held on April 17 allowing the appeal of Eric Ernest Fuller against his conviction before Chatham Justices on March 24, 1982 for failure to comply with the 1976 Regulations.

MR JUSTICE FORBES said that there was no provision in the enabling statute, the Public Health Act 1961, that a director was responsible if the Regulations were not complied with. Parliament knew well how to make such provisions: see, for example, section 20 of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER, agreeing said that nothing had been said to indicate that there were no circumstances in which a director of a company could be held liable for an offence under the Regulations.

Law Society results

The names of those who have passed all the papers in the Law Society's final examination are listed *below (list A)*. A double asterisk indicates that the candidate has obtained first-class honours and a single asterisk denotes second class honours.

List B shows those candidates successful in one or more of the seven papers, but who have not completed the final examination. It does not include candidates who are required to retake the whole examination, nor does it include candidates who have unsuccessfully attempted a paper for the third time.

The final examination consists of papers on the following subjects: the solicitor and his business clients; conveyancing; probate and administration; accounts; litigation; solicitors' professional *practice*; family law, and consumer protection.

LIST A

Aaron, J (London) Adley, Patricia M (Leeds). Ahmed, Afshan (Southall) Aitken, Audrey A (London) Allen, T (Worcester). Amer, S N (West Byfleet). Anderson, R E (Bradford). Andrews, P F-M H G (Birmingham) Armitage, J D L (Bridgwater) Armstrong, Suzanne (Seaford). Arumugan, Velupillai Pillenai (Kolonnewa). Astley, Jayne M (Marple Bridge). Austin, Julie E (London) Bailey, Susannah R C (London). Baker, B R (London). Baker, Shantaram Vithal (Clacton). Ball, Elizabeth A (Congleton). Barlow, P (Bebington). Barnard, Anthea (Norwich). Bate, Philippa S (London). Bell, S N (Burnham-on-Crouch). Bennett, Catherine M (Hare Street). Berwick, Sarah C (London). Blackburn, Dianne J (Nantwich). Blower, B J S (London). Blythe, R J (Colchester). Bowden, S D (Stoke-on-Trent). Boyd, Judith H [illegible]

Candy, Julie A (Altrincham). Ganeshananthan, Kandasamy (Selsdon) Gannon, C (Carlisle). Gardiner, R T (London) Gawor, M A S (London). George, Jane E (Evesham) George, P (Morecambe). George, S D (London). Gibbs, C A (London) Gibson, Sarah C (Chepstow). Gill, Carol J (Tunbridge Wells). Gill, Jane M (Barrow in Furness). Goldman, Ruth J (London). Good, K D C (Stockport). Goodinge, G H W [illegible]

[illegible]

(Keighley) Sefton, R A (Leeds). Selvirajan, G R (Sri Lanka). Sharma, Ralendra (Forest Gate). Sharp, S R (Romford). Sichel, D J (Reading) Sidhu, Inderjit K (Coventry). Silver, Theresa M (Newcastle upon Tyne). Smethurst, J D (Bolton). Smith, Brenda A (Newcastle upon Tyne). Smith, Karen (Rotherham). Smith, Karen A (Ware). Smith, Moreg M (Preston). Smith, Susan (Bath). Sparkes, Jane S (Redhill). Srirangan, R V (Bury). Stafford, Rosemary V (New [illegible]

[illegible]

LIST B

[illegible]

مكرر من الأصل

Come and see what makes an Escort Popular in Ford's Great Easter Parade.

(Ask your local dealer to lay on a test drive).

Are you going for a drive this Easter? Why not make it a test drive? You'll find some great new cars on parade down at the Ford dealers.

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And of course there's the new Escort Popular which we've hatched just in time for Easter. You can have it as a hatchback, or an estate.

Either way, it's very chic. And going cheap. So come on down and stroll around.

Below are some of the parts on the new Escort Popular. They add up to a whole lot of car. But not to a whole lot of money.

- 1.1 litre 50 PS engine
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- 'Lorenzo' fabric seat trim
- Push button radio
- Front courtesy light
- Illuminated instrument switches and heater controls
- Manual choke with integral warning light
- Three speed heater fan
- Two speed windscreen wipers with intermittent wipe and electric screen wash
- Laminated windscreen. Heated rear window
- Gas struts on tailgate. Removable rear parcel tray*
- Halogen headlamps. Reversing lamps
- Driver's and passenger's door mirrors
- Dipping rear view mirror
- Bodyside tape stripes
- Locking fuel filler cap operated by ignition key

£4,203.†



Ford cares about quality.

†Max. prices excluding number plates and delivery. Car illustrated is an Escort Popular, Estate model available at £4,671. *Saloon only.

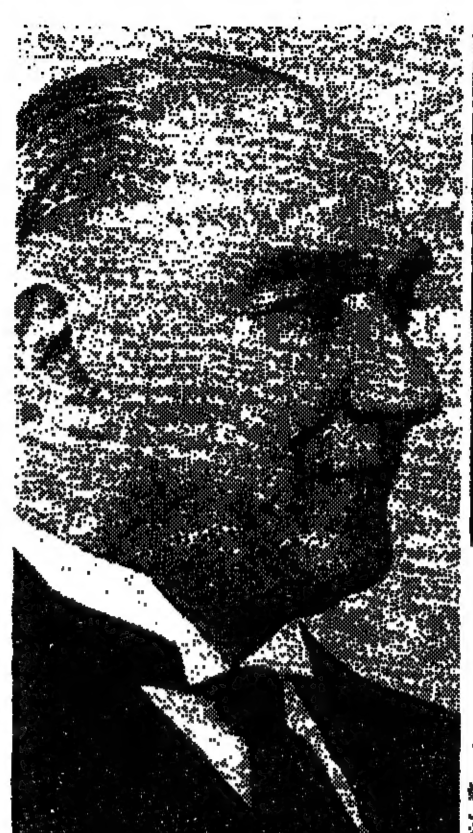
SPECTRUM



"Why was it that the regime itself and the many outside observers failed to perceive the monstrous plant which the soil of Iran was shortly to release? Why did I, with all my experience of the region, fail to see what was about to happen under my eyes?" Sir Anthony Parsons

An Iranian lesson: the army is not enough

In the final extract from his frank forthcoming memoirs, Sir Anthony reflects on his mistakes and answers his critics









Turkey's Kemal Ataturk, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, Egypt's Colonel Nasser and the Shah: The armed forces have often been a determining factor in the Islamic world, and coups familiar. But history showed that Iran was different

The Iranian revolution was an event which compared in magnitude to the French or Russian revolutions. It was no routine change of regime in a Third World country, the replacement of King X by General Y through the agency of a military coup d'état – the substitute for the ballot box in so many states – or the fall of an individual dictator leaving the nature of the state intact. The Iranian revolution encompassed the total collapse of an apparently powerful, centralized autocracy founded on and backed by a united and loyal military force and the emergence from its ruins of a completely different Iran in virtually all respects.

Why was it that the regime itself and the many outside observers such as foreign diplomats, Western academics, the press, and even the opponents themselves of the Shah's regime, failed to perceive – in the years before the incident at Qom, indeed up to the late summer or early autumn of 1978 – the monstrous plant which the soil of Iran was shortly to release? Why did I, with all my experience of the region, fail to see what was about to happen under my eyes?

A conventional wisdom has grown up since 1979 that the Western embassies were taken by surprise because of inadequate information. We had, so the argument runs, concentrated too exclusively on commercial work during the boom years and had neglected sufficiently to scrutinize the Iranian political scene. By the same token we had been so anxious not to offend the Shah that we had eschewed contact with the opposition and had thus fallen victim to the very complacency that blinded the regime.

We were under no illusions about the popularity of the regime, and recognized that by 1976 the pangs which were inevitably accompanying the transformation of Iranian society, combined with the disappointment of expectations attendant on the collapse of the oil boom, had created a serious and widespread malaise. Where we went wrong was that we did not anticipate that the various rivulets of opposition, each of which had a different reason for resenting the Shah's rule, would combine into a mighty stream of protest which would eventually sweep the Shah away. And, even if we had foreseen this combination, we would probably have concluded that purely civilian opposition, however united and however vocal, would be powerless against the bulwark of the armed forces, provided that they remained united and loyal to the Pahlavis.

Hence I am inclined to think that our lack of perception derived not from a failure of information but from a failure to interpret correctly the information available to us. We were looking down the right telescope but were focused on the wrong target. Here I blame myself unreservedly. Although I had the academic background to lead me to a correct interpretation of the facts which we had identified, I did not draw the appropriate lesson from Iran's historical past but generalized overmuch from my experience in Turkey and the Arab world.

Let me explain. From the Middle Ages until the twentieth century, the regular armed forces were at the centre of power in the Ottoman Empire. To this day the Turkish armed forces, as we have seen more than once since they overthrew the government of Adnan Menderes in 1960, have constituted the determining factor in the politics of the Turkish Republic. The Arab states which emerged in the 1920s, as the successors to the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East, inherited this tradition. We have become familiar with military coups d'état in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, etc. However, the Iranian tradition has been different ever since Iran re-emerged as a nation state at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Until the nineteenth century successive Shahs depended for their military strength on feudal and tribal levies: their survival or otherwise, like that of English kings before the Civil War, derived from their ability to command the loyalty of "barons" rather than the loyalty of regular forces directly answerable to the Crown. The religious leadership, together with tribal chieftains and rural landowners, had been the most influential of these elements ever since Shi'ite Islam became the state religion of Iran in the sixteenth century with the advent of the Safavid dynasty.

In the nineteenth century, with the first seeds of modernization beginning to break surface, the small nucleus of Westernized intellectuals emerged as another challenge to the absolutism of the Shah. In addition, the bazaar merchants, who controlled the levers of the traditional economy of the country, constituted a third force. The bazaaris were historically the allies of the mullahs through a symbiosis which persisted through until 1978. On a number of occasions during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries these three elements – religious, intellectual, bazaari – combined to oppose some action of the Shah or to promote some cause on which they were, albeit temporarily, united.

Three examples come to mind. In 1872 Nasruddin Shah granted a far-reaching concession to a naturalized British businessman, Baron de Reuter, which would have given him a monopoly covering almost all aspects of the Iranian economy. Under pressure from the clergy and the liberal politicians, the Shah was obliged to cancel the concession. In 1891-2 Nasruddin Shah granted a monopolistic tobacco concession to a British company. The clergy and the bazaar merchants combined to oppose this move, and the liberals disseminated pamphlets throughout the country attacking the concessions. In the end the Shah was forced to back down and the concession was withdrawn.

In the Constitutional Movement of 1905-6 the intelligentsia, the merchants and the clergy again combined to overcome the Shah's resistance to the granting of a constitution. Their methods included civil disobedience and the withdrawal of cooperation from the central government. With the country paralysed, the Shah was forced to climb down and to grant the 1906 constitution, which was still, at least in theory, the basis of government until the Shah was ousted in 1979.

Why did I not apply these lessons of history, which were part of my intellectual knowledge of Iran, to the contemporary scene?

I have brooded long on this error of interpretation and have come to the following conclusions. First, I had become too accustomed to observing the principle of the primacy of military force in the politics of the countries in which I had served to be able to make the intellectual leap necessary to take into account the uniqueness of Iran in this regard.

Secondly, I overestimated the extent to which 60 years of Pahlavi rule had transformed the nature of Iranian social and political life.

I was inclined to think therefore, while dismissing the ballyhoo about Pahlavi Iran being a renaissance of the pre-Islamic Persian Empire, that there had been a genuine severance with the immediate pre-Pahlavi past and that contemporary Iran had evolved on the pattern of superficially similar, military based, Third World autocracies in a condition of rapid economic and social development.

This mistaken judgment led me to the conclusion that, provided the Shah could continue to depend on his powerful and loyal armed forces, he was safe from the assaults of fragmented and unarmed civilian elements however implacably hostile they might be. I continued to hold this view until late September 1978 and it was only when the political strikes began that I realised that history was indeed beginning to repeat itself. By that time it was too late for this revelation to be of much practical use.

In his book, *Answer to History*, the Shah has implied that he did not believe in the sincerity of my advice and that he could not clear his mind of his obsessive suspicion that I was the front-line instrument of some devious British plot to rob him of his throne. But I can only repeat that the advice I gave him was genuinely personal and based on my best judgment of events in a country in which I had served continuously for nearly five years. Indeed, I can still hear my own voice telling the Shah on numerous occasions that I would not tell him what I thought unless he assured me that he would accept what I had to say as the disinterested advice of a genuine well-wisher, untainted by any ulterior motive. He invariably gave me such assurances, although I now know, as I suspected at the time, that he was intellectually and emotionally incapable – who can blame him in the light of his own history? – of accepting my views at their face value.

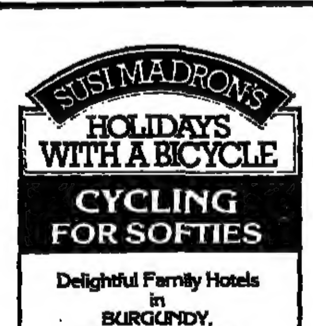
Strangely enough in the light of much that has been written after the event, the Shah and I were never in disagreement about the line of policy which should be followed if there was to be any hope of weathering the storm. From the moment when the nationwide strikes began for economic reasons in late September, I became convinced that there was no military solution to the crisis. The Shah was of the same mind. I can hear him saying, time and again, "A military solution is no solution," and "A dictator can survive by killing his people: a king cannot."

I have been accused of persuading him to leave when he should have stayed. The truth is that I was surprised at his willingness to leave.

I reproach myself for many things during my five years in Iran, as I hope I have been candid enough to admit. But I do not reproach myself for the advice I gave the Shah during those last four months. Given the same circumstances and even with the benefit of hindsight, I would say the same again.

I never liked nor admired him so much as I did during those last months as he faced with sangfroid, objectivity, humour and above all with humanity, the successive waves of crisis which were eventually to batter down his defences. Many of those who deserted his cause in his hour of need and either fled or cast their lot with what they believed to be the winning, even the better, side must now be filled with boundless regret.

The Pride and the Fall *by Sir Anthony Parsons is to be published on April 26 by Jonathan Cape (£8.95).*



We reveal all about the gorgon with Zola

moreover . . . Miles Kington

Move over, Torvill and Dean! Now the British press has found another golden pair to celebrate! Yes, it's hello to Zola and Budd, the dynamic duo who have elected to come and live in Britain. And they're exclusive to Moreover!

He is Emile Zola, the prize-winning French novelist who has been driven out of France by the Dreyfus affair and now wants to write for England.

She is "Sticky" Budd, the American comedienne and the funniest thing on two legs since Kathy Acker; she thinks our audiences are the most wonderful in the world.

Together they are Zola and Budd, the wackiest duo to hit town since Richard Attenborough and Oscar. Zola, who writes all his novels barefoot and can hardly speak English, was granted British nationality on arrival so that he can represent Britain at the next Booker Prize. Budd, who performs in American national costume (expensive French clothes) and speaks in American subtitles, has been granted New Zealand nationality.

"Boy, was that a surprise!" says Budd. "I wasn't even asking for it – I was only making inquiries at the Home Office on behalf of Zola. Apparently they work so fast at the Home Office that last year they completed three cases. Anyway, I just walked in through the door and they said: 'Hello, do you want to compete in the Olympics?'

"Well, I thought that sounded fun so I said, 'Sure'. And they said they were fresh out of British nationality, but they had one for New Zealand that was going spare. *Fine, I thought.* I'll wear it in the evenings."

Together Zola and Budd do what the media regard as the best press conferences around. Zola mumbles into his beard a lot and Budd does most of the translating. When Zola thinks that Budd has been talking too long, he shouts: "J'accuse!"

"Have you read Emile's tract called *J'Accuse?*", says Budd. "It's dynamite! I call it a tract because I don't know what the hell else to call it. It's too short to be a novel and it's too long to be a sentence by Bernard Levin.

"Basically it's about this guy Dreyfus who wanted to get to the top of the French army but everyone was against him. The French were against him because he had a German name. His family were against him because they thought it was no job for a nice Jewish boy. The French *army?* they said. Who did the French army ever beat? So they sent him to Devil's Island, or what nowadays we'd call Club Mediterranée, and he has a hell of a time. We're thinking of Woody Allen for the film version."

"J'accuse!" cries Zola.

"Keep accusing, baby", says Budd. "And take your absinthe."

Between them they should shake up the native British cultural scene, which for too long has been dominated by local authors like V. S. Naipaul and Salman Rushdie.

"Rushdie?" says Budd. "Isn't he the guy who's always criticizing your Indian restaurants here in London? I think they're great. Emile, what do you think of Indian food?"

"J'accuse!", cries Emile.

"He likes it", translates Budd.

What a pair! A breath of fresh air in the stuffy old world of British letters. Or, as Budd puts it: "I just love your British letters. I only wish someone would deliver them."

The only question now remaining is the one that everyone wants to ask. Is it wedding bells for Zola and Budd? Zola doesn't understand the question. Budd says: "What, and spoil everything?"

More from the dizzy duo soon. Remember – only in Moreover!

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 321)

ACROSS
1 Smart (6)
4 Bad-tempered (6)
7 Excellent quality (4)
8 Women's rights seeker (8)
9 Heredity study (8)
12 Brown edible fungus (3)
15 Low frequency speaker (6)
16 Notepad (6)
17 Obtained (3)
19 Earl of Stockton's nickname (8)
24 Extravagantly emotional (8)
25 Largest continent (4)
26 Large bottle (6)
27 Flexing muscle (6)

DOWN
1 Foolish (4)
2 Whit Sunday (9)
3 Equip again (5)
4 Funny paper (5)
5 Old Indian coin (4)
6 Moisten meat (5)
10 Equal odds (5)
11 Scrape clean (5)
12 Emotional purging (9)
13 Amenity land (4)
14 Large swallow (4)
18 Entrails (5)
20 Conjunction (5)
21 Upright (5)
22 Freud collaborator (4)
23 Just (4)

SOLUTION TO No 320

ACROSS: 1 Saddhu 5 Tube 8 Acrid 9 Impasse 11 Splatter 13 Yogi 15 Intensive 18 Role 19 Stigmata 22 Piccolo 23 Sahib 24 Stun 25 Stucco

DOWN: 2 April 3 Did 4 United Nations 5 Tape 6 Bespoke 7 Tawse 10 Emit 12 Tate 14 Zing 15 Illicit 16 Prep 17 Mamba 20 Ad hoc 21 Porn 23 Sou

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Veronica Groocock on how one woman survived a broken marriage

When a vicar leaves home

Mrs Freda Loyns, who is 46 and a students' welfare officer, spent 17 years married to a clergyman. He worked for a Church of England missionary society based in London. They raised three children together: Suzanne, 20; David, 18; and Simon, 11. Their mother dedicated herself unstintingly to church activities, an important but frequently unsung role with none of the kudos accorded her husband.

When John, her husband, left her, on November 1, 1977, her world was stripped bare. "You go into a parish", she explains, "there's a ready-made social life, a group of people knocking on your door. I missed that."

Overnight, her circumstances changed. Feelings of anguish and isolation were compounded by the sudden shattering realization that she was likely to become homeless and rootless. The clergy are not, by definition, owner-occupiers and, if a marriage fails, no provision is made for the ex-wife and children. Clergymen are deemed to be models of virtue, beyond reproach. Priests are still put on pedestals. The ex-wife of a priest forfeits her status and, in the eyes of the church, becomes invisible.

Mrs Loyns is a positive, resourceful, assertive person and fiercely protective of her children. She had long ago become inured to the curious looks of "outsiders" when she told them her husband was a vicar (doctor's wives do not share the same curiosity value). An *ex-wife* in the church, she later discovered, was considered an even greater oddity: "People have this idyllic picture of the clergy and their wives which is impossible to live up to." Indeed, the divorce rate among clergy closely reflects the national average.

Though her husband was the "guilty party", Mrs Loyns felt too ashamed and embarrassed to confide in her local church. "I assumed that nobody would believe my side of the story. I thought they would brand me as a terrible person, to have made a clergyman want to leave me". When she met other ex-clergy wives, she soon became aware that they all experienced that same sense of guilt and "misplaced loyalty"

In June 1976, Mrs Loyns' husband admitted that he had been unfaithful throughout their marriage. "He just broke down and told me he'd had these affairs. I was so shocked. I had no idea. He was an extrovert. Clergymen have to be sociable, amiable. A lot of women come and want to talk to them in private. I could see attractions here and there, but I trusted him."

As news spread that he had left, the silence from the church was almost deafening. Scarcely a soul in authority, from the local bishop downwards, called round to proffer sympathy and support – not even the women in the congregation, except a small handful of close friends, including some mothers from the playgroup which Mrs Loyns herself set up . . . "So I kept to my assumption that people were blaming me.

"Sometimes, after I'd put the kids to bed, I'd walk around the streets for hours and cry. It sounds terrible now", she says with a wry chuckle.

She was given three months' notice. Her local housing department told her: "When you are evicted, ring us." Then she tried the private sector, but her inquiries made little headway because of many landlords' intolerance towards young children.

Finally, she approached her local building society, who offered her a mortgage.

In August 1978, Mrs Loyns and her children moved from their church house into a neighbouring flat in north London. When she first moved, she worried about how she would manage financially and about coping alone with three growing children. "I used to feel panic welling up inside me. I'm much calmer now, but it took years to get that peace of mind.

"What was most painful was the *way* he left me – without a home, and with three very young and vulnerable children." It was hard and very lonely, but she suffered in silence. "I had this vague, illogical feeling that if I kept quiet and dignified I might still get him back."


Mike Abrahams

After the tears: the Loyns, from left, David, Freda, Simon and Suzanne

Marital pressures had built up over the years. The vicar's wife must accustom herself to sharing him, to playing second fiddle. "Most of the time you accept this, except when you have needs of your own", she said.

One particularly bizarre instance of strained loyalties occurred when they were both working in Jamaica. (Her husband was a missionary; she taught English). Mrs Loyns, pregnant with Simon, was in a packed church one Sunday morning. She started labour in the middle of her husband's sermon. Reluctant to catch his eye and make a fuss – "I'd been trained to take a back seat: he and his parish came first" – she left discreetly then drove back along a bumpy track to the rectory to await her husband's return.

"It seems extraordinary now that I put up with it, but I did. He never wanted to let his parishioners down. Once he'd finished with them, I had his undivided attention."

Mrs Loyns feels that the indifference, even antagonism, to her situation as an ex-wife was symptomatic of a male-dominated institution which is out of touch with women's needs. "Nobody thinks about *us* (the wives)."

She is on the London committee of *Broken Rites*, an independent association of divorced and separated clergy wives offering sympathy, understanding and practical help. Winkling out the ex-wives has been a lengthy process, she says. Now, they are "flooding forward. Everybody, like me, has felt a terrific relief to be out in the open and to meet others of the ilk."

A recent report, *Divorced Clergy Wives – One Year On*, shows that many divorced wives of clergy feel neglected and rejected by Church of England authorities. The report's main author is Labour MP for Birkenhead, Frank Field, a leading champion of *Broken Rites*, and recommends the introduction of a full-time post with special responsibility for seeing the difficulties of former wives.

Mrs Loyns found it upsetting at firs t to attend church after so many years of watching her own husband in the pulpit. She has become more critical of sermons, more aware of the gulf between what is preached and what is practised. Once, newly divorced, she sat in full view of the vicar, whom she knew. His sermon was about the shame of divorce among the clergy. "I felt it was aimed at *me*." For the first time in her life she got up and walked out of church.

Mrs Loyns feels a certain sense of achievement at having made it alone and relatively unscathed through the valium, tears and near-breakdown. "Looking back, I can see how much under his thumb, how *submissive*, I was, without realizing it at the time."

She would like to re-marry one day, though *not* to another clergyman. "But at the moment life's hectic and I'm quite enjoying just being me."

BROKEN RITES: Inquiries to The Secretary, 44 Vandon Court, Petty France, London SW1.

Giving the shops a dressing down

COMMENT

Is it my imagination or have they started summer earlier this year? It may be freezing rain and blustery winds in the High Street, but in the chain stores it has been bikinis, shorts and skimpy cotton knits since February. You could catch pneumonia just looking. The way things are that is all I am ever going to do – just look. So forward is the thinking of our leading retailers, that they seem to have winched the seasons round to the point where there never, ever, seems to be anything in the shops that actually suits the weather outside.

Am I the only woman who is fed up with floundering in a sea of flimsy summer clobber when what I really want, in February or March is a nice large cuddly comfy sweater to hide in till May – or longer, given our weather? Are my offspring the only children who tear, lose, outgrow or wear out trousers, skirts, woolies gloves, and dare I mention it, socks, in the middle of winter? Is there anyone else who finds it odd, if not downright inconvenient, that by mid February warm clothing has melted from the shops – just as the winter snow has started falling outside? Just who is it decrees that we must all shop six months in advance to make sure of having something to wear when the sun comes out/goes in?

I know I am not alone. One colleague moans about not being able to find a pram suit for his ten-month-old a few weeks ago – another goes on about a fruitless search in Marks for a winter skirt for her teenage daughter BEFORE Christmas. Now why should this be?

I asked Mr Paul Deacon, who researches the retail industry for stockbrokers Capel Cure Myers. He studies the High Street in the way other chaps follow the horses or the football scores. Well, apparently the urge to start summer early all boils down to competition. All the shops want to be the first to show off the new season's goodies. And it has a psychological effect. When it comes to the time to buy, you, the customer, remember which shop was well stocked. Or not well stocked, as the case may be. For retailers contend that customers do not want to buy warm clothes this side of Christmas – they want, nay demand their swimwear in February and they are not all going to Tunisia for a winter break. British Home Stores divisional manager Mr Alfred Newman told me, "Our customers seem to have learnt that if they wait till the weather has changed to buy things they will be out of luck. It will all have gone. Mr Newman has decided views on the seasons. Winter babywear is finished by December and no mum worth her salt buys for her children after Christmas because she cannot get six months wear out of a garment. I did not have the heart to tell Mr Newman that if I get six weeks wear out of my son's BHS school trousers I think it's a miracle. Do I send him off every morning with gaping holes at the knees, or what?

And summer comes earlier for some than other. For instance, it's late for men. You do not put men's summer wear in the shops in February. "Men are always last," said Mr Newman gloomily. I'd say they were less easily bullied." Retailers insist there is little demand for anything except summer gear after Christmas – except in the sales. Well that is not quite what Mr Deacon believes. The nation's retailers are terrified of being left with stock at the end of the season, so they are cautious about reordering.

The truth is that it makes far more economic sense for a shop to have too little than too much – have too little and you can tell everyone it all sold like hot cakes. Have too much and it's a forest of "sale bargain" signs leading to the salt mines.

This would be more understandable if retailers were not making massive profits at the moment. It is one of the most powerful industries in the country and it holds its manufacturers in thrall. You'd think they could chance their arm with a few pairs of thermal knickers or some woolly tights at this time of year, wouldn't you? Perhaps they should get some of their researchers to look at the problem. It might make a nice change from studying the shelf life of an orange to investigate if the customer might indeed want goods in the appropriate season.

Maggie Drummond

Classical dishes for Easter

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

The Greeks and Romans long ago cornered the market in festive Easter fare. As well as special breads, cakes and biscuits, there are all kinds of traditional dishes ranging from an Easter soup based on the spiced entrails of the lambs that are spit-roasted all over Greece to mark the occasion, to Tuscany's Easter ricotta fritters.

Italians are almost as keen on spring lamb as the Greeks, and an authentic rendering of *abbacchio alla cacciatora* demands milk-fed lamb no more than a month old. Sage, rosemary, garlic and anchovies flavour this rich braise which is a ritual dish of the Roman spring.

A traditional Easter recipe of Emilia-Romanga calls for lamb which is not quite so indecently young. A small shoulder of new season's lamb is the best cut for this meltingly tender pot-roast. I cook Marcella Hazan's version of it in a deep sauté pan, but a large saucepan or a flameproof casserole will do equally well.

Arrosto di agnello pasquale
Serves four

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 30 g (1 oz) butter
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled
- 900 g (2 lb) shoulder of spring lamb
- 1 sprig of rosemary
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 150 ml (¼ pint) dry white wine.

Heat the oil and butter in the pan on a medium heat until the butter foams. As the foam dies, add the garlic, lamb and rosemary. Brown the lamb well on all sides, but especially the skin. Do not allow the garlic to become too brown or it will taste bitter.

Add salt and about six turns of the pepper mill, and the wine. Bring the liquid to the boil, turning the lamb in it a couple of times, then cover and simmer the meat for 1½ to 2 hours, turning it several times. Make sure that the liquid does not evaporate completely and add a little warm water if there is any danger of the meat drying out. When the lamb is cooked it should be very tender – tender enough to cut with a fork. Transfer it to a warm serving dish. Skim the pan juices of all but one or two tablespoons of fat. Add two tablespoons of water, raise the heat and scrape up and loosen all the cooking residue in the pan. Pour this over the lamb and serve it immediately.

Fried fennel or battered and fried strips of courgette are authentic Italian accompaniments to Easter lamb. Lightly cooked mange-tout peas and new potatoes anglicize it and makes it more seasonal.

The point about hot cross buns is that they should be eaten warm. Shop buns split and toasted and dripping in butter are good. Hot from the oven, home-made buns are even better, and the whole house is filled with their inimitable warm, spicy smell.

Hot cross buns
Makes 16

- 450 g (1 lb) plain flour
- 15 g (½ oz) fresh yeast, or ½ teaspoon dried
- 300 ml (½ pint) warm milk and water mixed half and half
- 55 g (2 oz) caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- 110 g (1 oz) mixed candied peel, finely chopped
- 55 g (2 oz) melted butter
- 1 egg, beaten
- About 55 g (2 oz) shortcrust pastry (optional)
- For the Glaze
- 2 tablespoon sugar dissolved in 2 tablespoon of water.

Sift half the flour into a medium-sized bowl and the remainder into a larger one. Combine the yeast with four tablespoons of the warm milk and water (the ideal temperature is 43°C/110°F) and when it has dissolved completely and is beginning to froth, pour it into the smaller bowl of flour. Add the rest of the milk and water and mix to a thick batter. Cover the bowl with a damp cloth or plastic bag and leave it in a warm place until it has doubled it original bulk.

Stir the sugar, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, currants and peel into the remaining flour. Add the risen batter, the melted butter and the egg and mix well. Turn the dough onto a lightly-floured board and knead it lightly until it feels smooth and elastic. Cover the dough and leave it to rise until it has again doubled its bulk.

When it has proved for the second time, it can be shaped and baked. Divide the dough into 16 equal pieces and roll each into a ball. Space them out on a greased and floured baking tray. Cover the buns lightly and leave them to rise until they have doubled their size.

To make the crosses either slash the buns with a very sharp knife or scissors; or mark them with ribbons of very thinly rolled pastry.

Bake the hot cross buns in a preheated hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for about 15 minutes. Take them form the oven and paint them immediately with the glaze. Allow them to cool for about 10 minutes before serving them with fresh butter.

If you plan to serve the buns early on Good Friday morning the can be prepared and shaped the day before, and left overnight in the refrigerator covered loosely with plastic wrap. Add a few minutes to the baking time to take account of the extra cold dough.

Easter biscuits are another spicy traditional recipe and quicker to make than the yeast-raised buns.

Easter biscuits
Makes about 18

- 110 g (4 oz) butter
- 110 g (4 oz) sugar
- 1 egg
- 225 g (8 oz) plain flour
- 1 teaspoon mixed ground spice
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 55 g (2 oz) currants
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped candied peel
- A little milk to mix
- To decorate
- 1 egg white
- 4 tablespoons granulated sugar

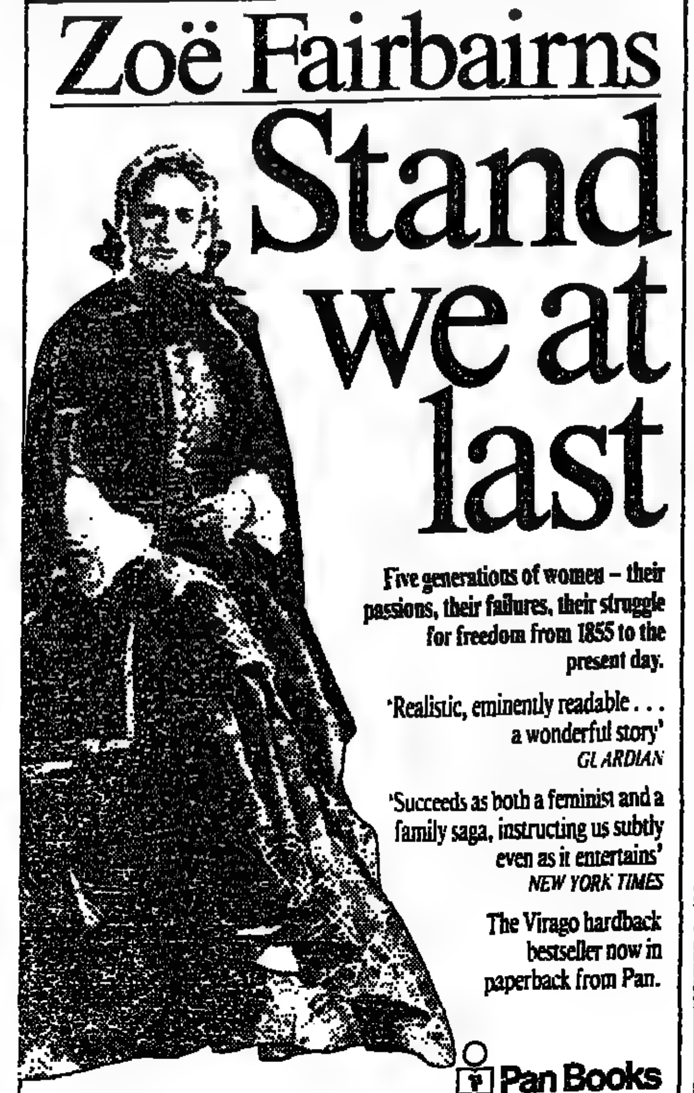
Cream together the butter and sugar until the mixture is pale and fluffy, then beat in the egg with a spoonful of flour. Sift the rest of the flour with the spice and salt.

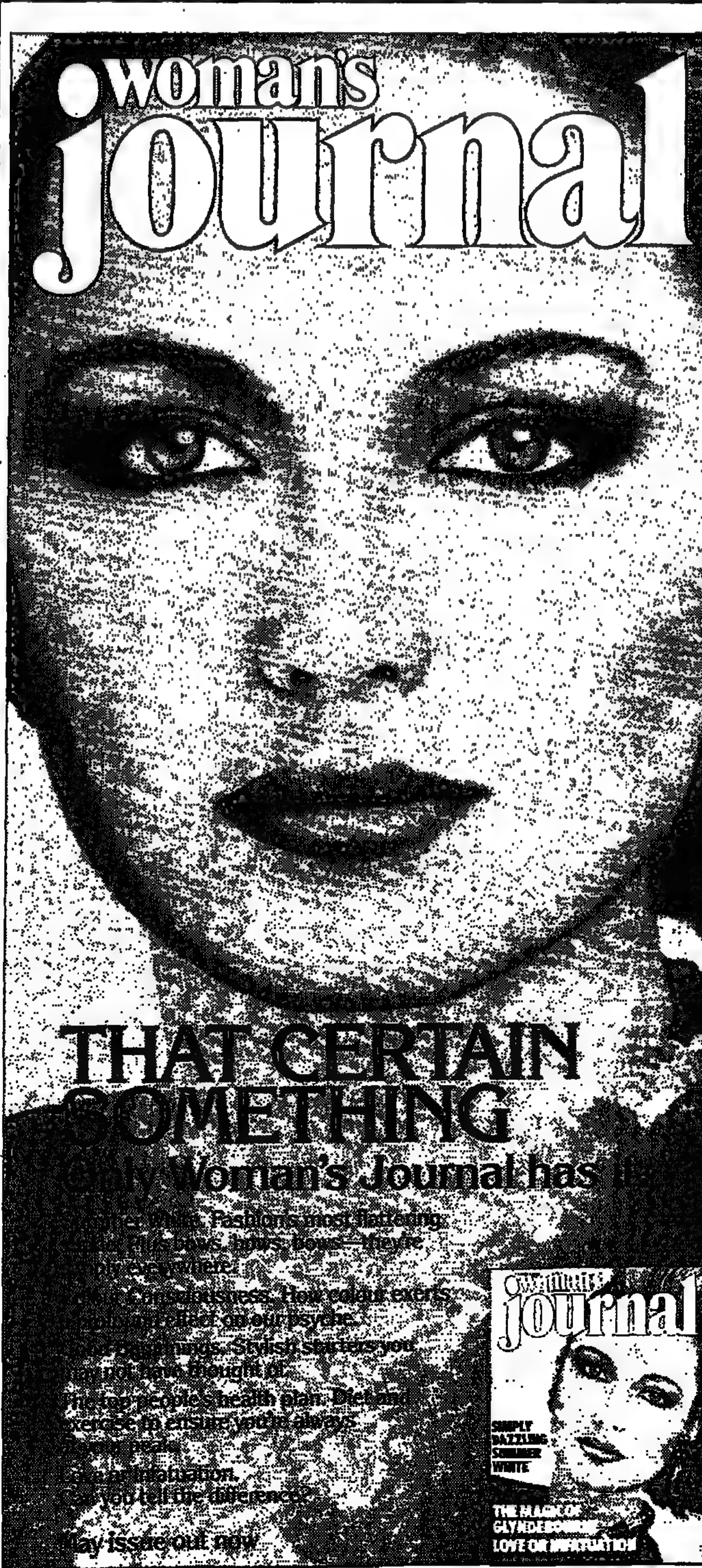
Combine the creamed mixture with the spiced flour, currants and peel and enough milk to make a stiff dough. Chill the dough for at least 30 minutes before rolling it thinly. Using a round crinkle-edged cutter, quite a large one, cut out the biscuits and arrange them on greased baking sheets.

Bake the biscuits in preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for about 15 minutes, or until they are cooked and very lightly browned. After they have been in the oven for 10 minutes, brush the tops with egg white and sprinkle them with sugar, then return them to the oven to finish baking.

Cool the biscuits on a wire rack and store them in an airtight tin.









THE TIMES DIARY

Clubbing apart

Cecil Parkinson, I hear, has left the Reform Club. Friends say his departure was prompted by the risk of being confronted by his former secretary, Sara Keays, also a Reform Club member, who made her first "public appearance" since the birth of their child Flora at a Wine Pool dinner there last week. Yesterday, Parkinson's new secretary, Angela Mathew, insisted: "He never used the Reform – he thought it was a waste of money." Now Parkinson's only refuge is the Carlton Club where, for the moment at least, he is on safer ground. It allows only lady associate members (LAMs) who, I am told, must be MPs, MEPs, or Conservative peeresses.

Craft, not graft

Work on Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire, William Morris's summer home, appears to be in good hands. Workmen emerge from vans marked W. Morris. I am assured that no nepotism extends beyond the grave of the great English craftsman. The building firm in question is Walter E. Morris of Black Bourton, Oxfordshire. Definitely no relation.

So good, sofa

The 40 psychoanalysts who have taken over the Castle Hotel in Taunton for a week's international conference – after vetting each room for size, décor and colour – are promising to improve upon the hotel's Michelin star. They say that if it lives up to first impressions they will award owner Kit Chapman a couch.

Open and shut

Blackburn District Council is to give £300 to the Campaign for Freedom of Information, the group launched this year to combat secrecy in public places. The decision was taken by the grants sub-committee – at a meeting which, like all of the council's working parties, is closed to the press and public.

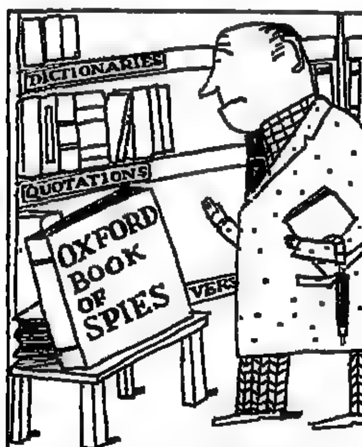
Calf measure

Ken Livingstone, who has just struck veal off the menu at County Hall on humanitarian grounds, is clearly unaware that the GLC rents out a veal-producing farm in Barnet, just outside London. Indeed Quantock Veal tell me it has just built two barns to expand production. Now Livingstone has been invited to visit the farm to see "the most humane method of farming." It sounds like an issure that Tory GLC councillors could milk for all their worth.

Spires and spy

It has not gone unnoticed by the Opposition front bench that, with the Bettaney trial, Oxford is finally vying with Cambridge in the spy graduate stakes. *The Times* has received a letter at its House of Commons office: "What have the following in common? Rt Hon Michael Heseltine, Sec of State for Defence; Rt Hon Denzil Davies, Shadow defence spokesman; Sir Frank Cooper, former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence; Michael Bettaney, MI5 sent down (KGB) (failed). All were educated at Pembroke College, Oxford!" The hand-written letter was signed: Denzil Davies, MP.

BARRY FANTONI



Phantom fears

After the cast of *Breakneck*, the play about killer Ruth Ellis, was showered in a torrent of pigeon droppings during rehearsals, I wonder what fate will befall the next performers at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East. *The Phantom of the Opera*, which opens on May 9, is directed by Ken Hill, whose last play at Stratford, *The Pharaoh's Curse*, left the theatre in mayhem. Manager Philip Hedley fell and cracked his head after reading the reviews; the theatre handyman broke his leg; Ken Hill's venomous snake, Asp, bit and killed Critchley, the bar cat; the bar staff threatened to strike; Asp was banished – and replaced by a rubber snake.

Armed struggle

Mrs Thatcher's revival of hereditary peerages seems to have brought the age of chivalry to her court. Sir Alfred Sherman, close counsellor and occasional jester, is considering a coat of arms and the devices he might use on the shield. He favours a lance tipped with a pen nib, as befits a founder of that right-wing round table, the Centre for Policy Studies, whose members have fought long and hard in the lists against such heraldic beasts as the quango, the flying picket and the dreaded neo-Keynesians. The motto Sir Alfred has chosen: "He who dares to think will dare everything".

PHS

George Walden on the aftermath of the embassy shooting

Libya: issues that must be faced

Diplomatic history is rich in outrage. There is no lack of precedents for the use of embassies as bases for the surveillance, intimidation and even elimination of dissidents. But yesterday's appalling attack from the Libyan People's Bureau on demonstrators will go down as one of the most monstrous events in a lengthening catalogue of enormities.

The obvious question is: how did we get into a position where diplomatic missions can be used in this way? Impatience with what are seen as technical niceties is understandable at such moments. But it is still worth looking at the background to yesterday's events, as well as at some of the harsher realities governing present international relations.

Ever since Colonel Gaddafi declared that the Libyan embassy in London, along with those in other countries, had been transformed into a "People's Bureau" there have been troubles and tensions. The whole philosophy behind the take-over was that the Libyan "people" would deal directly with the British "people" – though the new diplomats were keen to preserve their immunities as well. The Foreign Office reaction was to try to corral the new mission within the accepted conventions.

The first step was to find out who was in charge of the "Bureau". Once the "Secretary General of the People's Committee" running the embassy had been formally accepted as a chargé d'affaires the Government had what it needed: somebody who was formally and legally responsible with whom to deal.



June 1980: Musa Kusa (right) shortly before the Foreign Office demanded his recall to Tripoli

But all this did not prevent the murder of Libyan dissidents in early 1980, the dispatch of the then Under-Secretary, Sir Anthony Ackland, to Tripoli to reason with the Libyan government, or the eventual declaration of the head of the bureau, Musa Kusa, as *persona non grata* because of "activities incompatible with his status".

Why did we not break off, or at least suspend diplomatic ties with Libya at the time? There was no lack of moral or technical grounds for closing the mission. But, as usual, questions of what seems right have to be judged against what is sensible, and even an element of self-interest cannot be avoided.

Relations between states are a moral minefield. When the British mission in Peking was sacked and its personnel beaten up by Red Guards, we did not break relations with China despite public pressure. The main reason was that, in the turmoil of the time, Peking would probably have simply held our diplomats hostage. British businessmen in China, could also have been in danger.

In the case of Libya, it would have been irresponsible not to take account of the 7,000 British citizens working there. Nor is it necessarily evidence of moral flaccidity to put £300m worth of British exports into the balance. And finally, the brutal question has to be asked: would a severance of relations have prevented the attacks on Libyans living or studying in Britain?

But yesterday's appalling events, following the recent bombings, must lead to a complete reassessment of our strategy for dealing with the Libyans. Our exports cannot be bought by countenancing anarchy in St James's Square; toleration cannot extend to the killing of policewomen.

We must make clear to Colonel Gaddafi that enough is enough. Without imperilling the safety of British citizens, there must be an orderly withdrawal of the staff of the Libyan mission. This is the challenge that faces the Foreign Office.

It is little comfort to know that we are not alone. Recent events in Paris and Germany, not to mention Middle Eastern capitals, are evidence of a deterioration in the fragile conventions of which civilized international contacts depend.

When the immediate crisis is over, we must look urgently at two areas of concern. The first is the misuse of the diplomatic bags, an issue which is bound to arise again after yesterday's incident; the second is the whole thorny issue of the status of foreign missions. Both are large cans of worms. But public patience will not endure indefinitely.

The author, Conservative MP for Buckingham, was private secretary to Lord Carrington when Foreign Secretary.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Curtains for Hongkong too

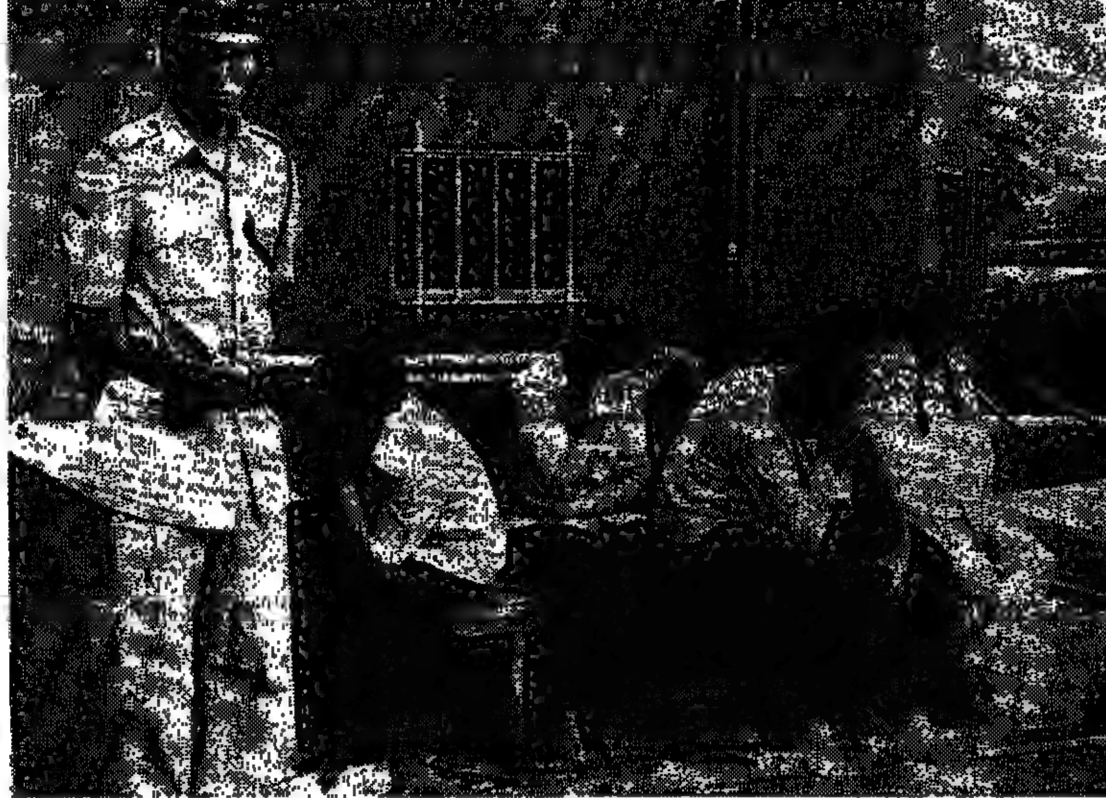
It cannot be long now before the negotiations over Hongkong are concluded; certainly that must be the view of Jardine Matheson, whose announcement that they are to skedaddle to Bermuda while maintaining that they are doing no such thing was, if not ignominious, not very minious. It was right that, after a few flurries in public, the talks should have gone underground, and unless something happens to cause them to break down, the next thing we shall know about them will be an announcement that the Foreign Secretary is off back to Peking to sign the formal instrument.

So much is obvious. No less so is the fact that, whoever else has been, is being, or will be, consulted in the matter, the people of Hongkong will not be among them. Britain's failure to ascertain their wishes is understandable; if they were asked whether they wanted to live under the rule of Chinese communism, they would say no (considering that a quarter of them are in Hongkong only because they risked their lives to get away from Chinese communism, that is hardly surprising, although as a matter of fact it still wouldn't be surprising even if every one of them had been born in the colony), and they would probably say it with sufficient vociferousness and in sufficient numbers to make more embarrassing the Government's task of handing them over to China under meticulously-drafted guarantees not worth the rice paper they are written on in quick-fading ink. (I have often been asked what became of Mr Solomon Binding. I am now in a position to reveal that he was knighted, *in pectore*, before Harold Wilson left office, and was subsequently seconded to the Foreign Office, where, as Sir Solomon Binding, KBE, he has been in charge of the Hongkong discussions).

I said my say on the subject of the future of Hongkong's people not long ago and at great length. I proposed that an international rescue operation should be mounted, starting *now*, to ensure that before Hongkong becomes part of China in 1997 (as of course I recognize is inevitable), all those Hongkong citizens who wish to leave should be enabled – not just permitted, but enabled – to go elsewhere; properly planned, and spread over the 15 years that remain, such a project could easily accommodate all the refugees (some of the population would not wish to leave) elsewhere, without any one country having to accept so many that it would cause serious immigration problems.

I had no great expectation that anyone in a position to start thinking about how this might be done would take any interest in it; it is obviously going to be easier for the British government to accept the Chinese undertakings, and hope that they will not be broken for two or three years, by which time there will be few to cry *"Tu l'as voulu, Georges Dandin!"*

Very well; but today, instead of just repeating what I said earlier, I want to draw attention to a little-remarked news item that appeared recently – so little-remarked, indeed, that as far as I could see only one newspaper in this country carried it, and that one (the *Sunday Telegraph*) devoted a mere 17 lines to it. Television did better.



Journey's end for five refugees caught by the Hongkong police. Those making the attempt now must get through an electrical fence on the Chinese side of the border

It seems that the news of the Hongkong negotiations, and the likelihood that they will conclude with an agreement that Hongkong shall become a Chinese possession, has not deterred those Chinese citizens who, following the example of so many others who have risked their lives to get there, have been slipping (or swimming) across the border, turning their backs on the glories and delights of liberation under communism and demonstrating a preference for the status of oppressed colonial subjects of HM the Queen.

It is not, in my view, sufficiently well known that refugees from China who are caught by the British border guards entering Hongkong are sent back – to what fate it is perhaps better for our peace of mind not to speculate. Despite this added hazard, the attempt is still made, and numbers of brave men and women still manage to evade the Chinese guards and the British ones alike, and settle in the crown colony.

All other methods used by the Chinese authorities to stop this flow having failed, we now learn that they have erected a continuous electrified fence, running *for 60 miles* along the Chinese border and coastline. To man this modern Great Wall of China some 4,500 soldiers and militiamen will be required; there will be seven crossing-points like Checkpoint Charlie, that well guarded aperture in the Berlin Wall, but for any Chinese citizen to pass through one of these seven eyes of the needle he will need a special pass, no doubt confirming that he is on official and authorized business.

The fact that this story has so far had no wider currency has meant that none of our home-grown Chinese fellow-travellers has as yet felt obliged to defend the action of their heroes, as the Soviet fellow-travellers defended the Berlin Wall ("It's the brain drain, you see – the capitalists in West Germany were bleeding the East German economy white"), though no doubt Messrs Felix Greene and Neville Maxwell, assuming they have not contracted incurable laryngitis, could run up a set of excuses for it in no time at all. But it is the silence of those who would not wish to excuse it in the first place that concerns me more.

I have pointed out on countless occasions that while all countries, reasonably enough, take careful precautions against being invaded by hostile neighbours, it is only totalitarian countries that take equally strict precautions against being outvaded by their own citizens, and kill those who try it; indeed, it is thus that a totalitarian state, in the absence of other evidence, may be identified.

Is that not one of the most extraordinary and abominable facts about our era, despite our era's massive overproduction of extraordinary and abominable facts? Is it not matter for horror and outrage that people who want to do nothing but peacefully leave their own country are murdered by mines or automatic weapons (or indeed by the guards on the watch-towers) if they try to do so and do not have the good fortune to avoid the traps set for them?

But if it *is* a matter for horror and outrage, where is the said horror and outrage to be found? In the answer to that question lies a tragedy that it seems we are powerless to avert or affect; it is that totalitarianism deadens feeling not only within its borders, where people deaden their feelings in order to survive, but in free lands also, where people deaden their feelings in order to enjoy life without being reminded of those elsewhere who do not. We cannot liberate the peoples who live under tyranny, but is that really an excuse for not caring about them?

To some, it clearly is; to many, even; perhaps to most. So I have no great hopes of setting the Thames on fire with my tale of the new Wall of Death along the Chinese border. All the same, the three angles of a triangle will continue to add up to 180 degrees even after the last life on earth has vanished; there are truths which are indepenfient of any audience, let alone a sympathetic one. And one of these truths is that a regime which erects a 60-mile wall and makes the mere touching of it lethal, solely in order to prevent the citizens behind it from leaving the country it encircles, is a regime that is, to use an amusingly old-fashioned word, evil. And it is to that regime that, in 1997, some 5,000,000 men, women and children in Hongkong will be transferred in return for promises as convincing as the wolf's assurance to the lamb hesitating at the threshold of his lair that he has turned vegetarian.

Brownies, Boonies

New words for old/Philip Howard

One of the richest sources of new English is American slang of all sorts. There are more of them, of many races and cultures, speaking and writing the language over there. They show a creativity, in inventing new ways of saying things, second only to the Australians.

Poor old Brits, panting along behind the trend-setters, pick up the new phrase, and often get it wrong. The time has come to tackle the fashionable nuisance of Brownie points. When people use it as a term of commendation, we must stop and consider what they are saying.

A Brownie point is used to mean a credit earned by a person for doing the proper or expected thing. The vogue phrase has come in over the past years, first of all in the US, and now over here, where it rages like fowl pest. The official explanation, usually taken for granted, is that it refers to a supposed point earned by what Americans call a Girl Scout Brownie for a good deed, such as helping a little old lady across the road.

I was never a Brownie. But I was a Wolf Cub, until our pack was disbanded with dishonour for setting the woods near Greenham Common on fire. And what we worked away for was not points, but badges, toggles, or possibly woggles, and a smile from Akela, the pack leader, with whom we were all in love. I do not believe that Brownies get points either.

If you are going to take a serious interest in slang, you need a nasty mind. A quick look in any dictionary of slang will show that any expression with brown in it is more likely to be scatological than to have anything to do with Girl Scout Brownies. These matters of vernacular are not susceptible to proof. But I regret to have to say that the term Brownie point is more likely to be military than scouting, and to derive from brown-nose or brown-tongue (cf bum-sucker), an essential part of the ambitious officer's repertoire.

I have a witty American acquaintance who lives in darkest Perthshire. Her neighbours have been asking her for years, with bright eyes and hoping for a Brownie point, what she thinks of living in Scotland. She habitually says: "It's really the boondocks, isn't it?". They purr, taking this to be an American superlative of commendation. She may have to find a new reply, since American television has started to bring this bit of slang into Britain, often abbreviated to "the Boonies".

The Boonies are another bit of military slang. War and military service are great manure for slang. During the last war GIs stationed in the Philippines were sometimes, when unlucky, sent on duty to a mountain region, the back of beyond, called Bundok in Tagalog. It means "in the sticks", another agreeable piece of American slang. If you lived out of town in early America, you lived in the woods, in a log cabin, I dare say. In the sticks.

I have also come across misunderstanding in Britain of the term rain checks. In the US giving and taking a rain check originated from the civilized custom of issuing free tickets for the postponed match to spectators whose enjoyment of a baseball game had been interrupted by bad weather. The phrase has been widely adapted. "Give me a rain check" means "I really don't want to have lunch with you".

Brits are unaware that Americans are using check as a synonym for ticket. They assume that check means test. Consequently they use "to take a rain check" to mean, "to test whether it is raining, or will rain"; and, by extension, to check whether a future event of almost any kind is likely to occur.

Peter Kellner

Here's health – to big business

Whom does the National Health Service exist to serve? Thirty-six years after its foundation it is something of a scandal that the answer is far from clear.

It ought to be clear, of course. Most people would agree that the NHS should promote the health of the population, provide everyone who needs treatment with prompt and adequate access to medical help, and use taxpayers' money as fairly and efficiently as possible. I should be surprised if many people quarrelled with that – even those who disagree on other aspects of health policy, such as private medicine or prescription charges.

There is, however, another answer. It is not to be found anywhere in Hansard, or in the transcripts of any *Panorama* or *Weekend World* interview. It is to be found instead in the contents of two reports the Government has tried to suppress, the boardings around many cricket grounds, in the balance sheets of some of Britain's most profitable companies, and in chemical analysis of almost any beefburger. It is that the NHS serves the interests of the medical profession, the tobacco companies, the drugs and medical supplies industry, and the makers of fatty foods.

The Department of Health and Social Security's sorry record long predates the present government. But since the Conservatives returned to power five years ago, the DHSS's stewardship of the health service has markedly worsened.

The pattern was set three years ago when Patrick Jenkin, then Secretary of State for Social Services, tried to bury the report *Inequalities in Health*, which documented how far the NHS remained from the ideal of equal care for all. Fortunately for anyone with a care for truth and social justice, Mr Jenkin botched his plan, and the report escaped into the daylight. (He had quietly made a few copies available without allowing any accompanying summaries or publicity, and naively hoped that nobody much would notice.)

Mr Jenkin's successor, Norman Fowler, learnt the lesson: if you are going to suppress things, do it properly. Last year the National Advisory Committee on Nutritional Education analysed how we were eating the wrong kind of food, and recommended how much of what we should eat instead.

An effective government publicity campaign based on the report would have provoked a few heart attacks in the boardrooms of many food manufacturers, but would have helped the rest of us to avoid one. The DHSS simply refused to publish it. It took a pre-Sarah Tisdall leak to *The Sunday Times* to make the recommendations public.

Sometimes individual ministers step out of line and put the public first. One of these was Sir George Young, Parliamentary Secretary at the DHSS from 1979 to 1981. He wanted to curtail the power of tobacco companies to promote their products on street hoardings and at sports grounds. The tobacco companies did not want to be curtailed. Sir George was moved from the department.

More recently, evidence has come to light of monopoly relationships between some of Britain's biggest companies and the DHSS. Labour's shadow health minister, Michael Meacher, wrote earlier this month to Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, asking him to investigate two of these links: the supply of surgical gloves by the London Rubber Company, and that of oxygen by the British Oxygen Company. In both cases cheaper supplies from competitors have been available, but DHSS officials have helped LRC and BOC retain their monopolies.

This week sees another chance to put the DHSS to the test. Yesterday, a major report was published calling for radical measures to reduce deaths from coronary heart disease. The report follows a two-year study partly sponsored by the DHSS.

Some of the proposals involve spending relatively modest sums of money – for example, £8m a year on a publicity programme. It would be in keeping with the usual standard of DHSS decision-making if it agrees to this, but blocks the more serious threat to food manufacturers posed by yesterday's report; it wants food manufacturers to be required to label the fat and salt content of all food, and it wants a progressive reduction in that amount.

The DHSS has the power under the 1955 Food and Drugs Act to enforce the labelling proposal, which would need a statutory instrument rather than a complicated new law. At present, for example, the meat fat in beefburgers and sausages may be concealed within the overall "meat" content: the fat need not be separately identified.

Well, will Kenneth Clarke, the Minister of Health, take up the challenge? And, while he is about it, will he implement the proposal immediately preceding this one and "ban all cigarette advertising, including sports and arts sponsorship"?

If we take standard DHSS practice as our guide, the answers are depressingly obvious. Yet radical action by Mr Clarke ought to appeal to the ideological instincts of a government that preaches the benefits of free-market capitalism. Two of the most basic principles of such a system are that monopolies should give way to competition, and that complete information should be made available to consumers to enable them to make rational decisions.

I realize it is a bit much to ask a Conservative government to apply socialist principles to the NHS. But is it also too much to ask it to apply basic Tory principles where they might do some good?

The author is political editor of the New Statesman.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Problem: getting Rooke to move

The second Viscount Hall has an unusual claim to fame. He is, so far as I recall, the only chairman of a nationalized industry to have been dismissed.

It is a curious paradox. Over the years it has been a recurrent theme of chairmen of our public corporations that the formidable task of attempting to manage vast enterprises more or less insulated from the pressures and disciplines of the market place have been immensely complicated by the meddling and chronic schizophrenia of ministers and civil servants. When one compares the relationships of public corporations with their sponsoring departments overseas – in France, for example – it would be hard to deny that our techiniques leave something to be desired. Yet it is equally apparent that the chairman of a British public corporation who knows his own mind and is sufficiently determined to get his own way can display a defiance of the chosen preferences of the representatives of his shareholders which would not be lightly tolerated in the private sector.

Which brings us to the case of Sir Denis Rooke. Sir Denis is a citizen of credit and renown. Among the great captains of the public sector he now stands first in order of seniority. A gasman to his fingertips who joined the South-Eastern Gas Board in 1949, he was appointed deputy chairman of the old Gas Council in the days of Edward Heath and raised to the chairmanship in 1976. He witnessed the transformation of the Cinderella of the energy industries and masterminded its emergence as the shining British High Speed Gas we have come to know and love. Through the recession, when other public corporations were reporting big losses, he alone was yearly generating profit on a scale to make even the world-weary mandarins of the Treasury salivate.

Those of a sceptical disposition might argue that anyone given a monopoly on North Sea gas at bargain rates, with exclusive rights to sell it when the cost of all competing fuels was going through the roof, who could not show a handsome profit on the transaction would need his head examining. Nevertheless Sir Denis did not let us down.

He is, however, and always has been, a fearsome guard dog of his corporation's hereditary rights and dignities. When the present government was in opposition, innocent inquiries about the logic of taxing oil and its derivatives, while leaving gas and coal unburdened, raised the colour in his cheeks. When the newly-elected Tory government decided to concentrate his corporation's attention on its basic business by taking it out of oil production, whether offshore or onshore, and when the Monopolies Commission cast doubt on some of the trading practices of the showrooms, and suggested we might all be better off without them, he mounted a tireless campaign and finally scared the Government off its plans for disposal of the showrooms.

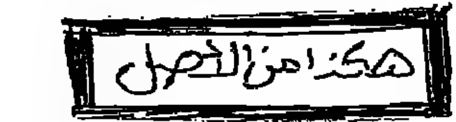
Single-handed, he obliged it to legislate before it could return his erstwhile North Sea oil interests to private enterprise. When it came to his corporation's interest in the Wytch Farm oilfield in Dorset, he dared the Government to direct him to dispose of it. This the Government did, on June 26, 1981. Yet three years later it remains unsold: and even now it seems the bold Sir Denis has devised another wheeze to play for time.

He also wants to tie us into a long-term deal to purchase gas from the Norwegian Sleipner field (at prices which he does not dream of paying for supplies from our own side of the North Sea basin), and seems to be implying that if ministers do not buck up and bless his business acumen, he will go ahead without them.

When one reflects that a previous wizard scheme by British Gas to buy supplies from the Norwegian Frigg field has obliged us ever since to tax fuel oil at far higher rates than those prevailing on the Continent, and that with the Siberian gas pipeline soon to come on stream, long-term gas supplies are looking plentiful, ministerial reservations seem eminently understandable.

But the moral of this lengthly saga is surely this. So long as the heads of the public corporations vigorously pursue the achievment of the purposes set out for them by the elected representatives of their owners, those representatives should support them. Equally, however, if and when it becomes clear that their purposes are in conflict with those of their elected masters, then the time has come for them to go.

Since it was glaringly apparent that Sir Denis fell into the latter category long before his first term of office expired, it was a mystery to some of us that he was asked to carry on. "Best man for the job", we were soothingly assured. Can that really still be so?





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AN UNDIPLOMATIC OUTRAGE

Diplomatic relations can survive quite a lot because they exist for the conduct of necessary business even between adversaries or countries with bad relations. But they depend on the mutual observance of certain clear conventions in return for which the representatives of each side are granted immunities. Libya's representatives in this country long ago gave many signs of having abandoned these conventions. Although there was no public proof, the British authorities believe that what passes for a Libyan embassy in London – the Libyan People's Bureau – bears some responsibility, even if indirect, for last month's bomb attacks in London and for other acts of terrorism, including the murder of three Libyan critics of the Gaddafi regime in 1980. The situation began to look even more ominous when a "student" group took control of the embassy in February, apparently with support from Tripoli, and criticized Britain for harbouring enemies of Colonel Gaddafi.

Now comes an outrage that would be appalling by any standards. By diplomatic standards it is wholly intolerable. Members of Libya's official representation have opened fire on a London square, killing a British policewoman and wounding many others. There were demonstrations going on at the time, so perhaps the Libyans inside the building feared an assault. There had been warnings that the PLO might attack Libyan missions abroad. But even this provides no excuse for such murderous and irresponsible behaviour. The external protection of foreign embassies in London is the job of the British authorities, who were doubtless as aware as the Libyans of any threats that had been made. There was no sign whatever of the demonstration getting out of hand.

The situation is made even worse by the fact that the Libyan government, far from apologizing or pleading self-defence against the demonstrators, has had the amazing effrontery to say that the British police were assaulting the building. Therefore the shooting cannot be treated as a mistake to be smoothed over with apologies and compensation. It has to be treated as an act for which the Libyan government takes responsibility. In fact, it looks like a logical sequel to the hysterical outpourings of hate against Britain which have appeared in the Libyan press recently.

This puts the British government in a very difficult quandary. The proper and unavoidable response to the incident is to expel the entire Libyan mission, but there are about twenty British diplomats plus dependents in Libya and about 8,500 other British citizens. The Libyan press has already threatened that any "humiliation" of Libyan or Arab citizens in Britain will be met with "tenfold humilation for Britons staying in Libya and the rest of the Arab homeland". The level of paranoid hysteria now evident in Libya makes almost any madness possible.

So, while the British government must safeguard its citizens from Libyan outrages in London it cannot ignore the safety of those in Libya itself. Perhaps the Libyan government would think twice about the economic cost of doing anything that would sever all relations with Britain but logical considerations of this sort cannot be relied upon to prevail in Tripoli at the moment. The British government will therefore have to tread carefully. Nevertheless, important points of principle and national security are at stake and there can be no doubt about what the end result should be. Britain cannot permit foreign wars to be fought on its soil, or foreign "diplomats" to fire on British citizens.

SCHOOL MEALS IN NO-MAN'S LAND

School meals and the women who serve them once occupied a prize place in the national affections. The lunches themselves were associated with that Webbite conviction in national efficiency through state-ordered diet. And the women, dinner ladies, enjoyed maternal respect, representing the nanny state at her most caring. The modern reality is usually a lot less misty-eyed. School lunches now occupy a no-man's-land between giving the customers what they want, and can afford, and what is deemed good for them and the unionized labour serving them. The task of supervising lunches is resented by teachers; their subsidies are often a drain on the provision of money for education proper.

There is a mixed pattern, reflecting the uncertainty of councils about their welfare role: here large scale subsidies for meals (in the Inner London Education Authority for example); there the abandonment of hot food altogether. What is – or ought to be – clear everywhere is that employing dinner ladies is no act of charity. They are employed, like all municipal staff, to provide a service which, the public often suspect, could be more cheaply provided by the private sector. That service the elected local authorities of Devon and Lincoln and Hertfordshire and Birmingham have decided, with misgivings, to keep, provided unit costs can be reduced. Monday's Division Court judgment will assist these and other councils in businesslike management.

For years Treasury and Environment ministers have been telling local authorities that they could provide an unchanged array of services at less cost. In vain: councils have replied that only major surgery on their activities would produce savings; the result has been the repeated breach of spending plan targets. This week's judgment, though it refers only to the single issue of dinners ladies' terms of employment, is important for it makes plain, for the first time, that a downward revision of council costs is possible without either a loss of employment or any major alteration in service.

Mr Justice Mann said merely that for Hertfordshire and East Sussex employee terms and conditions negotiated on the council's behalf nationally do not form a binding part of local contracts with dinner ladies. He thus confirmed that negotiating arrangements for most local employees' pay – police and teachers' are quite separate – are akin to an informal club. No penalties attach to members who leave unilaterally. As a matter of law this is a small point. As a matter of politics it could and should have ramifications.

The judgment is not likely to create anarchy in local pay bargaining nor disrupt any of the various employer and trade union clubs. Maybe it should. There is something faintly distasteful about local authorities which at one moment stand pat on their local freedoms and accountability and the next surrender their discretion to complex, unseen and largely unaccountable national bargaining committees. When country-wide pay rates apply to manual workers or dinner ladies, where is the scope for local differences of cost and culture? During the past twenty years the done thing has been to embellish these national rates locally, to make additional payments here, give weightings there. The judgment opens the possibility that the trend may now be reversing. Birmingham, one of the councils in court (it went down because it did not follow the municipal rule-book to the letter), has been trying to pare down one of these accretions to the pay system, retainer payments for dinner ladies during the summer vacation. On the wider canvass, perhaps the way is now open for uncoupling part-time rates from full-time payments altogether, to make part time employment more casual, flexible and cheaper.

The converse of the substantial savings in cost which Hertfordshire and East Sussex may now reap is of course a drop in family income. Taken as a whole the public accounts may show an increase in the uptake of certain social benefits as a result, especially in those low income families where the wife's earnings have moved from the periphery to the centre of the household budget. But the answer to that problem is more part time work, not less. It certainly is not the continuing distortion of councils' financial management by immoveable national deals on pay and conditions.

BRAZILIANS ON THE STREETS

The Brazilian liberalization process began in 1974, and sceptical observers have been heard to say that it must be the most long-drawn-out such process in recent Latin American history. But this last week's massive demonstrations – more than a million in the streets in both Rio and in Sao Paulo – bring a new intensity of pressure to bear on the government. They look like marking the real beginning of the end.

Their immediate aim is to bring pressure to bear on Congress for *Diretas Já!*, direct free presidential elections this year, which the opposition will bring to the vote on April 25. President Figueiredo has declared his resolve to stick by indirect elections until 1988. The vote may go against him. Even if it does not, it is hard to see how the military government's authority can be restored. The present conjuncture is therefore the most critical in Brazilian politics for the last twenty years. As these twenty years have been ones of severely limited political expression, the outcome is the harder to predict. No Brazilian under the age of forty has voted in a free election. The fate of parties created for the limited politics of military tutelage is uncertain when the soldiers go. Many soldiers are aware of what has happened in Argentina, and many have been spectacularly corrupt: the "Argentina effect" on them is hard to measure, but it is certainly one element in their current thinking.

There are nevertheless some general conclusions that can be drawn from observing the current confrontation, and they are clearer and at least as important as the short-term outcome. First, this is a general opposition: it embraces the unions, the workers' party and the radical church, but it also embraces the middle classes – far larger and more demanding middle classes than those of 1964 – and the entrepreneurs as well as the more easily recognized football stars, singers or sociologists, the cultural leaders of modern Brazil. Secondly, it is so far a moderate opposition, and likely to be the more effective and united for that. It unites not on class interests or social revolution but on political liberty. The most prominent leader, the Governor of Rio Leonel Brizola, has a radical nationalist past but hardly a radical nationalist current tone. At first sight this moderation can seem a surprising response to the austerities of the last three years, the deepest recession of the last fifty. Thirdly, these two aspects together signal a loss of authority by the current government that certainly carries important implications for Brazil's creditors.

It is a feature of Latin America's current crisis that those who have lost authority are the authoritarians, and not simply through the bad luck of being in power when it struck. The effective government that is needed for negotiating the crisis can only be had through more politics, not less. It is possible that democracies are more effective than the various forms of authoritarian rule, and that people will accept from governments of their own choosing restraints that cannot be imposed on them.

Brazil has recently made extraordinary efforts, achieving a record trade surplus through a combination of drive abroad and import restriction at home, but it is unlikley by conventional extrapolations that the economy will right itself before the end of the decade. In these circumstances a prescription of relative political inertia until 1988 is perhaps simply unrealistic, and those who see such a formula as any sort of guarantee of stricter orthodoxy in the management of the country's economy are not realistic either. A popularly-elected government will of course be conscious of its origins when bargaining with Brazil's creditors. A military government near its end will be at least equally conscious of popular opposition. Neither can achieve the impossible, but the first has distinct practical advantages.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A balancing act on punishment

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, It is difficult to understand your characterisation of the Home Secretary's penal policy as that of a "dogged empiricist" (leader, April 13). The very examples which you cite afford scant support for such an interpretation.

Mr Brittan's contribution to the capital punishment debate, in which he argued for the execution of terrorists as a special class of murderer, was based not on empiricism but on "the duty of the state to signal its total and absolute repugnance for those who commit crimes that undermine its very foundations".

His changes in parole and life-licence are predicated on similar grounds. For the evidence shows conclusively that those who have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment are actually better parole risks than those on short sentences. (Incidentally, it is not true that there are now determinate sentences for the most serious homicides. As the Home Secretary made clear at the Conservative Party conference, his policy specifies minimum periods of detention which may well be exceeded in certain cases).

Your other examples are no more convincing. It would be difficult to think of any academic criminologist who would regard the massive expansion of prison building as a cost-effective use of resources. Weekend imprisonment has proved a notable failure in Holland and Belgium. The growth in community service orders has been brought to a virtual standstill.

On the basis of innumerable research studies the Home Office itself now places far greater emphasis upon crime prevention and attributes relatively little value to imprisonment as an instrument of crime control. Would it not be more accurate to interpret the Home Secretary's policy as a balancing act between his officials and the retributivists in his own party?

While you are right to draw attention to the shift in sentencing practice away from detention centres as a result of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, does not such an interpretation better explain Mr Brittan's announcement on short, sharp shocks than your own?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
Nuffield Lodge, Regent's Park, NW1.
April 13.

A businesslike view of the economy

From Mr Peter Gordon-Potts and Mr David Kingston

Sir, When the 364 *academic* economists made their statement three years ago there was virtually no response from others. Now that you have reopened the discussion, your Economics Editor (March 30) is right to ask for more "meeting of minds".

As a start, here are three aspects of the economy which economists *in business* may see rather differently from those whose experience is primarily academic.

1. Inflation is not just a technical aspect of the economy, something which can be dealt with by indexation, leaving other things equal. High levels of inflation are themselves damaging: they erode the bases of commercial contracts, they sap confidence and encourage caution in the interests of survival.

Reduction in inflation brings, of itself, real and lasting benefits. Companies can apply their cash flow to productive investment and not merely to maintaining their working capital intact. The benefits are beginning to flow.

2. The level of employment is not simply a function of the level of activity. It has also been, especially in the past few years, a matter of not using substantially more people for a given output than are used in countries with which we compare and compete.

It is therefore a function of our national efficiency. For many plausible reasons we employed three people when other comparable countries employed only two. A condition had to be created to bring about employment comparability.

Academic economists believe that this condition was met by the creation of unemployment itself; in fact, the impetus came from stringent monetary conditions leading to corporate losses, a spate of closures and threats of more.

The numbers in employment have fallen, not primarily because of "lack of demand" but because fewer people are needed to satisfy the same demand. Productivity and international competitiveness in manufacturing have improved substantially, due to improvements in technology and to a new corporate culture which is more efficient and cost-conscious. Some plants have been closed but new operating practices have been introduced in many of those which remain open. A firmer footing has thus been created for future expansion.

3. Reducing inflation is not simply a funtion of the level of unemployment. It is the pressures of the "monetarist" environment which have brought about the change we have seen. What is more, productivity is now rising so rapidly in manufacturing industry and has so far to rise in many other sectors of the economy that the improvement in efficiency, with consequential benefits for inflation, looks to be well sustainable.

The proviso is that the Government retains the will and skill to ensure that all sectors of the economy operate in an environment of controlled, humane and consistent monetary discipline.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GORDON-POTTS (Group Economic Adviser, Imperial Group),
DAVID KINGSTON (Senior Economist, PA Management Consultants),
As from Imperial House,
1 Grosvenor Place, SW1.
April 11.

Tax on generosity in buying art

From the Chairman of the National Art-Collections Fund

Sir, Mrs Geraldine Norman (feature, April 14) points to the inevitable action which a British government must now take if it wishes to prevent an increasing number of our art treasures drifting overseas – tax concessions similar to those which are made in the United States. I fear that we shall lose more highly important works of art before adequate action is taken.

However, there is one small adjustment which the Government can easily make by removing a damaging VAT anomaly

I doubt whether many people are aware that when a national or university museum or gallery buys a work of art at auction or through a dealer VAT has to be paid on the auction or dealer's commission. The only exception to this are municipal galleries. In the case of an overseas buyer, no VAT is payable.

In effect, the tax is designed to favour the overseas over the domestic buyer, even when the latter is purchasing for the national patrimony. In the case of expensive works of art the tax payable runs into many thousands of pounds and reduces the chances of our public galleries competing successfully against overseas buyers.

Members of the National Art-Collections Fund, who give freely of their own money to help secure works of art for the nation, are naturally indignant that a tax should be levied on their generosity. How is it that a Government which calls for the private sector to shoulder more of the burden of supporting the arts allows the tax system to frustrate this declared purpose? The solution is simple – zero-rate VAT on purchases by all public museums and galleries.

Yours faithfully,
NORMANBY, Chairman,
National Art-Collections Fund,
20 John Islip Street, SW1.
April 16.

The voter's choice

From the Chairman of the Electoral Reform Society

Sir, Ronald Butt (feature, April 5) is absolutely right. He argues today that whatever bodies are formed to replace the GLC and ILEA should be directly responsible to the voters. The members should not gain their places by any form of indirect election, or appointment – which would inevitably be seen by the electorate as a fiddle.

I am sure the Government will appreciate the strength of voters' feelings on remoteness and lack of accountability and will not unnecessarily risk alienating support.

But surely Mr Butt did not choose his headline. For such a purpose, "an X" is *not* right; it is absolutely wrong. X-voting polarises party differences. It discourages the able and independent. It distorts results and effectively disfranchises many electors.

Preferential voting by means of the single transferable vote – the "voter's choice" – is ideally suited to bodies where diverse interests must inevitably cross party lines to co-operate for the greater good. There are many good precedents. The legislators could examine three.

The Scottish education authorities between the wars were directly elected by the single transferable vote. Currently the school boards of the city of New York are directly elected by this method. So also is the General Medical Council and the report of the Merrison committee, which resulted in the GMC adopting STV, gives a closely reasoned argument. Their findings have been well borne out in practice.

Yours faithfully,
GERVASE TINLEY, Chairman,
The Electoral Reform Society,
6 Chancel Street,
Blackfriars, SE1.

Words and worship

From Mr Simon Preston

Sir, On reading Roger Scruton's excellent article (April 10) about the abandonment of *The Book of Common Prayer* in our churches and cathedrals and his conclusion that it is the clergy of the Church of England who arrogantly refuse to reconsider, I was immediately reminded of the correspondence which appeared in your columns around last Christmas about the declining number of boys entering our choir schools and cathedral choirs.

At the time it was argued that the fault lay more with the schools themselves rather than in anything inherently wrong with the tradition and the system, but surely one of the prime reasons for the apparent decline in interest is the lack of commitment from the clergy to the language of the services and hence to the role of the choirs within these liturgies.

The introduction of modern liturgies in the shape of the *Alternative Service Book* has been forced upon cathedral and parish church alike, regardless of their differing approach to worship; consequently this grim uniformity has tended to increase considerably congregational participation in cathedral services while at the same time reducing the role of the choir.

In the light of this lack of commitment to the traditional language of the Church of England and to the traditional role of the choir in the liturgy of the cathedrals, is there any wonder that parents of prospective choristers feel that perhaps they would rather not commit their son to the care of clergy whose aesthetic judgment must be in question?

Until the clergy come to their senses the efforts of musicians in the service of the Church to maintain the standard of singing which has been the envy of the rest of the world for so long will be largely wasted.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON PRESTON,
8 The Little Cloister,
Westminster Abbey, SW1.
April 10.

Future of steel

From the General Secretary of The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation

Sir, Far be it from me to defend the misconceived investment strategy followed by BSC in the 1970s, but Mr Montgomery, in his letter to you of April 9, makes a number of points which will not stand up.

Modernisation of the steel industry was undertaken under public ownership because the private sector had failed in the 1960s to do the job. There is plenty of evidence for this, some of it in the Conservative White Paper of 1973. Modernisation came late and in the wrong form, but it had to come.

As for demand, it was falling in the 1970s but it only really slumped after 1979, following the election of that year, and it is falling still. Faced with this result of its own actions, the Conservative Government, far from extending nationalisation as Mr Montgomery suggests, has privatised many parts of BSC and plans to privatise more.

These newly private firms do have a monopoly, but during the 1970s the United Kingdom consumer had a second private-sector option if the public sector failed him.

Mr Montgomery's proposal to set up Shotton Works plc, far from being revolutionary, would simply reinforce the trend of recent years, *viz*, a public asset with expensive kit put on show prior to sale at below its real price.

Yours sincerely,
W. SIRS, General Secretary,
The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation,
Swinton House,
324 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

Fears for the O level

From the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Secondary Examinations Council

Sir, Members of the Secondary Examinations Council have asked me to write to you expressing concern that your leading article of April 7 ("Classroom realism") misrepresents the arguments at present being deployed in favour of a single system of examining at 16+.

We would wish your readers to know that in recommending reform of the examination system to the Secretary of State, we did not assume that a "single system" implied common examination papers for all levels of ability. Indeed to the contrary, members were concerned that whatever system of examining emerged there should be available papers set to match the needs of the highest ability group, stretching and testing them at least at the level of present GCE O-level examinations, and that the needs of those of lower ability must also be met, within a system of differentiated assessment involving where necessary the use of separate papers pitched at different levels of difficulty.

We saw the national criteria which have been produced by the examining boards not just as a means of rationalising syllabuses, but positively as a means of reinforcing expected standards at all levels by clearer statements of what candidates of varying abilities know and can do.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. COCKCROFT,
Chairman and Chief Executive,
Secondary Examinations Council,
Newcombe House,
45 Notting Hill Gate, W11.

Not so pedantic

From Miss Theresa Marteau

Sir, Philip Howard (April 9) advocates free use of the word "diabetic" to describe people with that disease. He accuses those of us who carefully avoid the word by referring to "people with diabetes", "children with diabetes", etc, of being pedants. At the risk of being thought a pedant by Mr Howard, I would like to take issue with him.

While I agree it probably doesn't matter if a new journal is named *Diabetic Medicine*, I do think it is mistaken to extend this indifference to our description of people. Use of the word "diabetic" implies that the individual is defined by the disease; use of the phrase "a person with diabetes" avoids such an implication.

H. G. Wells may have felt happy to use the word "diabetic", but this is no reason to persist with such a habit.

Social science research tells us that the labels we attach to people influence how we think about them and behave towards them. A rose by any other name does not always smell as sweet.

Yours faithfully,
THERESA MARTEAU,
Department of Paediatrics,
John Radcliffe Hospital,
Headington, Oxford.

Threat to Opera 80

From Mr Denis McGeary

Sir, As an area arts association trying to bring the best of music and drama into an underserved area – and on a very stringent budget – we would be the first to applaud any move by the Arts Council to improve arts provision in the regions.

This may well be their intention with the recently announced reallocation of funds, but we find one of the notified "cuts" particularly baffling – that of the excellent and irreplaceable Opera 80.

We have promoted annual visits by Opera 80 ever since it was formed. Without exception, the productions have been outstanding on every level and audiences have flocked to see them – as indeed they are doing right now, since the company is with us at the time of writing.

Our audiences' reaction to the announcement of Opera 80's imminent demise has been immediate and unmistakable. Hundreds have signed an open letter to the Arts Council, begging them to reconsider. As a promoting body, we feel equally strongly.

Opera 80 is the only first-class, full-scale opera company we can offer our customers. It was formed specifically to tour areas like ours: there are few venues equipped to cope with the larger companies, even if they were available (and affordable). There can be no doubt that the company has fulfilled its brief brilliantly.

"The regions" consist of areas with scattered rural communities, as well as large cities. Cumbria is only one of many regions which will regard the cutting of Opera 80 as a real blow and will be totally baffled as to the reasoning behind the decision.

We can only hope that the Arts Council may be persuaded to find some other solution in this particular case. Certainly the opera-lovers in this area are prepared to fight for what they have come to regard as "their" company.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS McGEARY,
Executive Director,
Renaissance Theatre Trust,
Cumbria's Area Arts Association,
The Centre,
Fountain Street,
Ulverston,
Cumbria.
April 6.

WRNS at sea

From Mr S. M. Mackenzie

Sir, Your statement on April 6 that Second Officer Nuttall, WRNS, has become the first female member of a Royal Navy ship's company to live on board her ship at sea is not strictly accurate.

In late 1940 HMS Fidelity was commissioned at Barry Docks with a mainly French crew, all of whom had joined the Royal Navy. Amongst her officers was First Officer Barclay, WRNS, who played a fully executive role in running the ship and served on board until HMS Fidelity was torpedoed and lost with all hands in mid-Atlantic on December 31, 1942. Nine of the officers lost were British.

Whilst HMS Fidelity was not perhaps a typical Royal Navy warship but rather a latter-day Q ship, she was certainly the first (and probably the only) RN ship in which a female held an executive officer's post.

Your faithfully,
S. M. MACKENZIE,
St Ronans,
8 Clayton Road,
Selsey,
West Sussex.
April 6.

Rights of advocacy

From the Secretary General of The Law Society

Sir, Mr B. M. Elwick in his letter (April 5) asks why The Law Society "are seeking wider powers of audience when they very rarely exercise the rights they already have".

The Law Society originally applied for wider rights of audience, but the rights actually made available in 1972 to solicitors in the crown courts were limited, as Mr Elwick himself points out, to appeals from magistrates' courts or on committal for sentence – not, as he suggests, where the same firm has represented the defendant in the magistrates' court, but only where the advocate himself or his partner or employee appeared in the lower court.

Relatively few cases go on appeal or committal for sentence in the crown court and still fewer of those fall within the above limits. They usually involve only a relatively brief appearance, often resulting in substantial waiting time.

It is uneconomical for the solicitor and costly to the legal aid fund for a solicitor to act as an advocate in such a case. If full rights of audience were available solicitors would be able to organise their practices to make it both convenient and economically viable to undertake this advocacy

Indeed, this is borne out by a recent change in bail procedures as a result of which solicitors are now able to make bail applications "in chambers" in the crown court. These cases are always heard first and time is not wasted waiting for them to be heard. These cases are widely conducted by solicitors, both for the prosecution and the defence.

More solicitors would exercise other existing rights of audience, e.g., before the judge in chambers in the family courts, were they not unfairly discouraged by the unsatisfactory listing of their cases and the consequent financial loss.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. BOWRON, Secretary General,
The Law Society,
The Law Society's Hall,
113 Chancery Hall, WC2.
April 13.

Voice of experience

From Mr G. S. Nelson

Sir, Your correspondents may have inadvertently stumbled on the secret of longevity. Join a church choir.

Yours faithfully,
G. S. NELSON,
6 Bancroft Avenue,
East Finchley, N2.
April 15.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 17: His Excellency the High Commissioner of the Kingdom of Swaziland and Mrs Mamba, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Mrs Abou-Seada, the Secretary of State for the Home Department and Mrs Brittan, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Hon Mrs George Younger, the Hon Sir John and Lady Sainsbury, Sir Hugh Wilson, Dr and Mrs Lionel Dakers and Mr and Mrs Roger de Grey have arrived at Windsor Castle.

The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 17: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, President of the British Olympic Association, this evening attended a dinner in aid of the Cambridgeshire Olympic Appeal at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by the Chairman of the Appeal (Mr James Crowden) and the Master of the College (Sir Alan Hodgkin).

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, attended by Mrs Andrew Feilden, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 17: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today visited the Shaftesbury Homes and "Arethusa" Venture Centre at Lower Upnor, Kent.

Her Majesty subsequently opened the restored Almshouses of the Hospital of Sir John Hawkins, Knight, in Chatham.

Lady Elizabeth Basset, Sir Martin Gilliat and Captain James Lowther-Pinkerton were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 17: The Duke of Gloucester visited Birmingham today.

During the morning His Royal Highness opened King's Heath Careers Centre, Poplar Road and later reopened Aston Hall. In the afternoon His Royal Highness, as President, National Association of Boys' Clubs, visited Shard End Boys' Club to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Club.

The Duke of Gloucester travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 17: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Angus Ogilvy, attended the Lunch of the Television and Radio Industries Club and presented the 1984 Celebrity Awards at Grosvenor House, London.

Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. P. A. Astley Birtwistle and Miss A. F. Younghusband
The engagement is announced between Cyprian Philip Anselm, second son of Mrs Iris Birtwistle, of Burnham, Deepdale, Norfolk and April Frances, eldest daughter of Mrs A. King and the late Mr M. M. Younghusband, of Harare, Zimbabwe.

Mr A. D. S. Bankes and Miss A. Goodman
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Bankes, of Mynachlog, Northop, Clwyd, North Wales and Ariane, daughter of the late Arthur Goodman and of Mrs Goodman, of 49 Grantchester Street, Cambridge.

Dr R. P. Cole and Dr M. M. White
The engagement is announced between Richard Philip, younger son of Professor and Mrs J. P. Cole, of Nottingham and Mary Margaret, younger daughter of Dr T. G. E. and Dr M. White, of Croydon, Surrey.

Mr J. M. J. Havard and Miss J. Archer
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, eldest son of Dr J. D. J. Havard, of Wilton Square, London and Mrs M. L. Collis, of Melbourne, Australia and Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs N. D. Archer, of Shirley, Croydon, Surrey.

Mr J. R. Perry, RN and Miss T. C. Bain
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs B. R. Perry, of 6 Wedgwood Close, Theydon Grove, Epping, formerly of Singapore and Fiji, and Tiffany, second daughter of Mr and Mrs M. I. C. Bain, of 12 Dalkeith Road, Singapore.

Mr J. Urquijo and Miss B Zobel
The engagement is announced between Juan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Jaime Urquijo, of Madrid and Beatriz, eldest daughter of the former Philippine Ambassador to the Court of St James's, The Hon Jaime Zobel de Ayala, and Mrs Zobel, of Manila. The marriage will take place in Madrid in the middle of July.

Mr W. J. M. Wilson and Miss H. C. G. Hordern
The engagement is announced between William Wilson, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel John Wilson, OBE, and of Mrs Wilson, of Middle Woodford, Wiltshire and Harriet, younger daughter of His Honour Judge Christopher Hordern, QC, and Mrs Hordern, of 43 Smith Street, London, SW3.

Marriages

Sir James Dunnett and Lady (Clarisse) Grover
Sir James Dunnett G.C.B. and Lady (Clarisse) Grover were married quietly in London on Saturday, March 24.

Mr H. S. Clarke and Miss A. E. Marchant
The marriage took place quietly on Thursday, April 12, 1984, at St Mark's Church, Peaslake, between Mr Hilton Clarke and Miss Ann Marchant. The Rev Philip Seal officiated.

Mr S. D. McLeod and Miss E. M. Hobler
The marriage took place on Saturday April 14, in Ware Church, Virginia of Mr Stephen Mcleod, elder son of Mr and Mrs G. R. McLeod, of Bethesda, Maryland, and Miss Mabel Hobler, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs H. A. F. Hobler, of Gloucester, Virginia.

Mr K. R. Warner and Miss E. B. J. Besly
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 14 at the Church of St Gregory and St Martin, Wye, of Mr Keith Warner, only son of Mrs Gordon Warner, of Finchley, London, and Miss Emma Besly, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Richard Besly, of Moorstock House, Sellindge, Kent. The Rev Robert Wagner, of South Dakota, United States officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore an ivory silk gown and an antique lace veil and carried a bouquet of narcissi and roses.

A reception was held at Horton Priory, Sellindge. The honeymoon is being spent in the Maldives.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Major-General W. N. J. Withall to be Colonel Commandant Corps of Royal Engineers, in succession to Major-General O. McC. Roome.

Mr John McDonnell to be Deputy Leader of the ruling Labour group at the Greater London Council.

Legal
Mr Anthony Chadbourne Heywood to be a member of the Council on Tribunals from April 16.

Mr Jeffrey Bower to be joint County Court Registrar and joint District Registrar of the High Court in the Leeds group of courts from July 2.

Marshal of the RAF Sir Arthur Harris, Bt

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Arthur Harris, Bt, will be held in Westminster Abbey on Thursday May 24, at noon.

Those wishing to attend are asked to apply for tickets in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to Ministry of Defence, S10(Air), Room 601, Adastral House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RU, by not later than May 8. Applications should not be sent to Westminster Abbey.

Ticket(s) and guidance on dress will be issued seven to 10 days before the service.





The exhibition at the Barbican, includes a portrait of the First Earl of Inchcape, by Philip Alexis de Laszlo (left) and a study of a Chinese girl by George Chinnery, dated 1840.

Flourishing business of art patronage

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The artistic heart of the City of London goes on show tomorrow when 36 of the corporate denizens of the Square Mile display their paintings at the Barbican Art Gallery.

The exhibition, the first public showing of the art collections of the City's business houses, reveals that art patronage has flourished among the capital's companies since the late eighteenth century.

Some of the most interesting exhibits will be paintings commissioned by international trading houses in their infancy. The Hongkong firm, Jardine Matheson, has a number of paintings on show commissioned in the early nineteenth century when it was establishing a flourishing living trading in the Far East, partly in opium.

Among its works are an interesting study of an early Chinese director of the company, then simply Matheson, and views of British ships outside the foreign concession in Canton. But the exhibition also includes modern examples of arts patronage, including a study by P & O of its liner, the Canberra, under fire during the Falklands conflict.

Mr Paul Atterbury, the exhibition organizer, said that 36 private companies have lent the 125 paintings to the exhibition, which cover artists such as Thomas Daniel, William Marlow, Sir Thomas Lawrence, to Francis Bacon, Howard Hodgkin and Gilbert and George.

"What has emerged is that buying is a low key affair, often left to a single employee or director's personal taste, and not regarded as an investment. Any preconception that paintings in City firms consisted of portraits in the traditional style as a perk for directors was quickly dispersed.

"There is remarkable diversity and quality. Some firms were advised by the Contemporary Art Society, though in the end the choice was always their own. Clearly the City's traditional patronage of living artists continues to be maintained.

"It was good to find that most companies see their collections as being for the enjoyment of all their employees, and not simply to be consigned to the director's dining room."

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, was host at a luncheon given yesterday at the Stafford Hotel in honour of members of the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination.

HM Government
Mr John Patten, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, yesterday held a luncheon at the Savoy Hotel in honour of Dr Halfdan Mahler, Director General of the World Health Organization. Other guests included:
Sir Brian Bailey, Sir Douglas Black, Dr J D J Havard, Sir John Nabarro, Sir Kenneth Stuart, Dr Donald Acheson, Dr E L Harris, Mr I G Gilbert and Miss J McKessack.

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor entertained the following guests at a private luncheon for women in the City at the Mansion House on Monday:
Mrs Jane Adams, Mrs Liliana Archibald, Mrs Joan Barrell, Miss Susan Bluff, Mrs Mary Lou Carrington, Mrs Anne Chan, Miss Eileen Cullen, Lady Duff Gordon, Mrs Susan M Harman, Miss Audrey Head, Miss Angela Heylin, Mrs Margaret Hutchings, Miss Patricia Lamburn, Miss Alison Lewzey, Miss Jane Lockyer, Miss Eleanor Macdonald, Mrs Caroline Marland, Mrs Eugenie Maxwell, Commandant Vonla McBride, Miss Emma McClellan, Miss Elizabeth Pingstone, Miss Nicola Ramsden, Miss Kathryn M Riley, Miss Hilary Sears, Miss Audrey Slaughter, Mrs Hilda Trew and Mrs Ellen Winser.

Governors of Crosby Hall
Miss Barbara Harris, chairman, and other governors of Crosby Hall were hosts at a luncheon held yesterday. Among those present were:
The Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Sir John Lambert, Mr John Brooke-Little, Mrs Leslie Lewis, the Rev C. E. and Mrs Leighton-Thomson and Mrs Nancy Calcheok, President of the British Federation of University Women.

United Newspapers plc
The chairman and directors of United Newspapers gave a luncheon yesterday at the Savoy Hotel for business associates and friends. Mr David R. Stevens welcomed the guests and Sir Peter Lane replied.

Reception

British Film Institute and the National Film Archive
Tributes were paid to the late Paul Rotha at a reception organized by the British Film Institute and the National Film Archive at the National Film Theatre yesterday evening. Mr Edgar Anstey, Mr Basil Wright and Mr Michael Foot, MP, were among the speakers.

Birthdays today

Mr Roger de Grey, 66; Mr Alan Devereux, 51; Lord Leatherland, 86; Mr Roy Mason, MP, 60; Father Dominic Milroy, 52; General Sir Horatius Murray, 81; Sir Gilbert Paull, 88; Baroness Platt of Writtle, 61; the Right Rev Dr E. J. K. Roberts, 76; Dr E. M. Rosser, 58; Major T. Tufnell, 64; Sir Edgar Unsworth, 78.

Horticulture

Gold awards for daffodils

By Alan Toogood, Horticulture Correspondent

Two gold medals were awarded for daffodil exhibits at the Royal Horticultural Society's spring show, in the halls at Westminster yesterday.

Michael Jefferson-Brown, of Whitbourne, was awarded a gold for a vast bank of daffodils of all kinds, including pink trumpet cultivars such as 'Salmon Trout', 'Clochemerle' and 'Widgeon'.

Rathowen Daffodils, of Omagh, co Tyrone, also received a gold for a similar bank, which featured white trumpet daffodils, together with pinks, such as the very deep 'Violetta'.

The third gold medal awarded, went to Edrom Nurseries, of Coldingham, Berwickshire, for primulas and woodland plants, tastefully arranged among "fallen leaves" and birches.

In the competitive classes at the RHS daffodil show, Mr John Lea, of Stourport-on-Severn, Hereford and Worcester, won the Englebeart Challenge Cup, for 12 cultivars raised by the exhibitor; Rathowen Daffodils, of Omagh, gained the Guy Wilson memorial vase for six cultivars of white daffodils; and Mr F. C. Postles, of Elmbridge, Hereford and Worcester, won the Bowles challenge cup (for 15 cultivars) and the Richardson trophy, (for 12 cultivars), in the section for amateurs only. Best bloom in the show was 'Silent Valley' shown by Rathowen Daffodils.

A camellia show is also being held, and in the competitive classes Miss G. Carlyon, of Par, Cornwall, gained a first prize for six sprays of blooms, and Mrs P. Emson gained a first, and the Leonardslee Bowl, for blooms of 12 cultivars.

Another trade exhibit, while not gaining a gold medal, is creating a great deal of interest with a collection of New Zealand plants, collected by Mr Graham Hutchins, the owner of County Park Nursery, Hornchurch. There are many plants seen for the first time in Britain, such as *Clematis petriei* 'Princess' and *C.p.* 'Limelight', with green, highly scented flowers, and growing to 3ft in height.

The Alpine Garden Society's spring show is in the Old Hall, Vincent Square, and the coveted Sewell Medal, for six pans of rock plants, was awarded to G. Rollinson, of Holmfirth. The bulbous plant, *Tecophilaea cyanocrocus*, won a first prize for P. Marsh, of Farnham.

A leading prizewinner in the Japan Society of London's bonsai show was W. H. Brown, whose exhibits included a 50-year-old spruce and a 75-year-old juniper.

Awards to plants: A first class certificate was given to an un-named rhododendron hybrid for a cool greenhouse, with huge, white, highly fragrant blooms, exhibited by G. A. Hardy, of Hythe.

Awards of merit went to the following orchids: Odontioda Baiser 'Ambigne', with red-purple flowers marbled white at the edges, raised and exhibited by Vacherot and Lecoufle, of Boissy Saint Leger; Phalaenopsis Scaramouche 'Françoise Lecoufle', white, spotted and veined lilac, raised and exhibited by Vacherot and Lecoufle; Cymbidium Saint Helier 'Mont Millais', pale green and cream, exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation; and Wilsonara Uruapan 'Tyrone', purple, marble white, exhibited by R. W. Payne, of Staines.

The following plants also gained awards of merit:
Magnolia campbellii alba seedling, with huge white pendulous flowers, exhibited by Major A E and G A Hardy, of Hythe; Eupatorium sordidum, for the cool greenhouse, with large branching heads of feathery mauve blooms, exhibited by The Director, RHS Garden, Wisley; Camellia japonica "Wilamina", deep pink semi-double, exhibited by Dr J A Smart, of Barnstaple; Camellia "Satan's Robe", crimson semi-double, shown by David Trehane, of Truro; Anemone nemorosa "Robinsoniana", pale blue, from Rev R J Blakeway-Phillips, of Little Abington; Jeffersonia diphylla, for alpine house or rock garden, white anemone-like flowers, shown by The Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; and Polygala calcarea "Lillet", a rock-garden plant with sky-blue flowers, shown by Mrs W A Bevington, of Camberley.

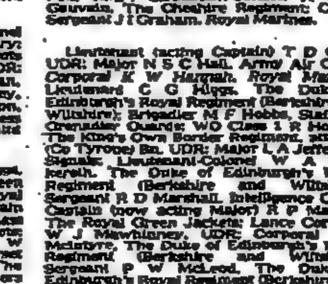
The show is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Ulster bravery awards

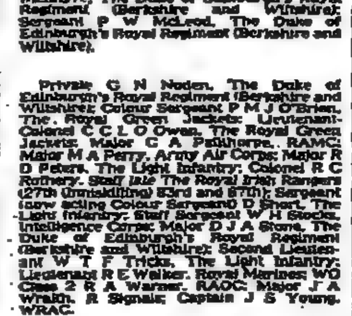
The following awards for service in Northern Ireland between May 1 and September 30 last are announced:

CBE (military division): Colonel I R Cartwright, Staff, late The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

OBE (military division): Lieutenant-Colonel J M Jago, Royal Regiment of Artillery; Lieutenant-Colonel A de C L Leask, Scots Guards, and 8th (county Tyrone) Bn, UDR; Lieutenant-Colonel J P J O'Donovan, RAMC; Lieutenant-Colonel T C K Ridley, RAOC; Lieutenant-Colonel C B K Smeeton, The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) and 6th (County Tyrone) Bn, UDR.



MBE (military division): Major A Briggs, UDR; Major P D Browne, The Royal Green Jackets; Lieutenant M J Donovan, Royal Marines; Major C J Dunbury, RCT; Captain D L Haydock, Intelligence Corps; WO Class 1 D G Little, The Royal Green Jackets; Major H E Mantell, UDR; Major A W Thornburn, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; Major J P Weller, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.



BEM (Military Division): S Sergeant B Cairine, Intelligence Corps; WO Class 2 B E Darvill, The Royal Green Jackets; Private J A Graham, UDR; Sergeant S J Hunt, REME; S Sergeant D W Pittaway, RAOC; Sergeant (acting S Sergeant) S P Simonini, RE; Sergeant (acting S Sergeant) E H Tomiczek, RE; Colour Sergeant K J Wallwork, The Cheshire Regiment.

The Queen's Gallantry Medal: Corporal S J Gregory, The Parachute Regiment; Major R P Jennings, ROAC; Corporal J Kelly, UDR; Sergeant W Millar, R Signals; Lieutenant (acting Captain) G A O'Sullivan, RAOC; Corporal E Pemberton, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding); Private J P Richards, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; S Sergeant B J Swift, The Parachute Regiment; Major A J Taylor, RAOC.

Mentioned in Despatches: Lieutenant-Colonel (now acting Colonel) R W Acworth, The Queen's Regiment, and 10th (Belfast) Bn, UDR; Major A M Anderson, QARANC; Captain B W Barry, The Light Infantry; Corporal (now Sergeant) A P Bohan, The Royal Green Jackets; Captain M J Clements, Royal Tank Regiment; S Sergeant A Court, Intelligence Corps; Major S B Cusack, Royal Marines; Corporal O J Dobson, RMP; Colonel R G Elliot, Staff late Royal Regiment of Artillery; Lieutenant-Colonel S M Elliott, The Light Infantry; Sergeant R J Ewen, Royal Marines; Squadron Leader T J Finneron, Royal Air Force; Sergeant G D Fox, RMP; Lieutenant-Colonel A de P Gauvain, The Cheshire Regiment; Colour Sergeant J I Graham, Royal Marines.

Lieutenant (acting Captain) T D Grey, UDR; Major N S C Hall, Army Air Corps; Corporal K W Hannah, Royal Marines; Lieutenant C G Higgs, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire); Brigadier M F Hobbs, Staff late Grenadier Guards; WO Class 1 R Hopton, The King's Own Border Regiment, and 6th (Co Tyrone) Bn, UDR; Major L A Jeffery, R Signals; Lieutenant-Colonel W A Mackereth, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire); Sergeant R D Marshall, Intelligence Corps; Captain (now acting Major) R P Matters, The Royal Green Jackets; Lance Corporal W J Mawhinney, UDR; Corporal A B McIntyre, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire); Sergeant P W McLeod, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire).

Private G N Noden, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire); Colour Sergeant P M J O'Brien, The Royal Green Jackets; Lieutenant-Colonel C C L O Owen, The Royal Green Jackets; Major C A Pallthorpe, RAMC; Major M A Perry, Army Air Corps; Major R D Peters, The Light Infantry; Colonel R C Rothery, Staff late The Royal Irish Rangers (27th (Inniskilling) 83rd and 87th); Sergeant (now acting Colour Sergeant) D Short, The Light Infantry; Staff Sergeant W H Stocks, Intelligence Corps; Major D J A Stone, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire); Second Lieutenant W T F Tricks, The Light Infantry; Lieutenant R E Walker, Royal Marines; WO Class 2 R A Warner, RAOC; Major J A Wraith, R Signals; Captain J S Young, WRAC.

Dinners

Actuaries' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Sir John Donaldson, and the Sheriffs and their ladies, was present at a ladies' dinner held by the Actuaries' Company at the Mansion House yesterday. The Master, Mr K. J. Burton, presided and the other speakers were the Lord Mayor, Sir Brian Pippard and Mr Geoffrey Heywood. The Rector of St Bartholomew the Great said grace.

Dinosaurs Club
Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, was the principal guest at a dinner held yesterday by the Dinosaurs Club at the House of Commons, by courtesy of Mr John Stokes, MP. Mr Donald Box presided and others present included:
Lord Harvington, Mr B Godman Irvine, Sir John Barlow, Sir Charles Taylor, Sir John Tilney, Sir John Peel, Sir John Langford-Holt, Mr P B Lucas, Mr John Woollam, Mr Percy Grieve, QC, Mr Simon Wingfield Digby, Lieutenant-Colonel James Allason and Mr Charles Simeons.

Royal Society of Medicine
Sir James Watt, president, presided at a dinner held after a meeting of Council of the Royal Society of Medicine yesterday evening. The guest speaker was Dr Margaret Rule. Among those present were:
Mr A W Rule, Lord and Lady Porritt, Lord and Lady Smith, Sir John and Lady Dacie, Sir John Stallworthy and Sir Gordon and Lady Wolstenholme.

Science report

Molecule 'cocktail' may extend oilwells

From Pearce Wright, Science Editor, Exeter

A new discovery which could extend the life of the Forties Field oil wells by up to 10 years is being tested by a group of scientists from British Petroleum's Sunbury research laboratories. The idea is to introduce a chemical additive, called a surfactant, to the water which is pumped continuously down the wells.

If trials at a land-based site at Bothamsall, near Worksop, Nottinghamshire, are successful, the method could be applied in the North Sea within five years. A new plant would have to be built first to manufacture the chemical because about 400 tonnes a day would be needed for a field the size of the Forties. The investment would be between £1,200m and £1,500m.

The first details of the project were presented to the annual congress of the Royal Society of Chemistry at Exeter by Professor John Cadogan, director of research for BP. He referred to the substance just by its laboratory code number.

He said: "We have not given it a name yet. We simply call it the cocktail, to describe the complexity of the molecules which have been combined to achieve the desired results."

The purpose of the surfactant is to release the highly viscous fractions of oil which remain stuck in the pores of the rock. The amount of oil extracted from different wells varies. Geologists expect about half to be obtained from the Forties, because the hydrocarbon is a relatively light mixture which flows freely. In other wells, as little as one-third of the oil is extracted.

Professor Cadogan said more than £1m of the chemical has been poured down the trial well near Worksop. That has been injected in a mixture of fresh water. In the North Sea the chemical would be added to brine. About 5 per cent of the surfactant would be added to the mixture.

The method is to suck up seawater, sterilize it and add the chemical for injection into boreholes. About half a million barrels a day of the mixture would be pumped down.

The trick of loosening the viscous oil is, in principle, simple. The surfactant is a special detergent. The difficult part is to ensure that it remains stable at over 100°C and under high pressure conditions.

The material must flow easily through the porous rock because it will be introduced during the working life of the oilfield. It must not break down to form any coagulant to block the pores.

The flow of surfactant through the field takes a long time. It would be months between the first injection and an increased recovery due to its action in the subterranean reservoir.

The research on surfactants was one of several new developments which, Professor Cadogan said, "would, if successful, put off the energy crisis until the middle of the next century. Enhanced oil recovery using carefully designed surfactants could squeeze additional hundreds of millions of barrels of oil out of existing fields in the North Sea, the equivalent to finding new fields".

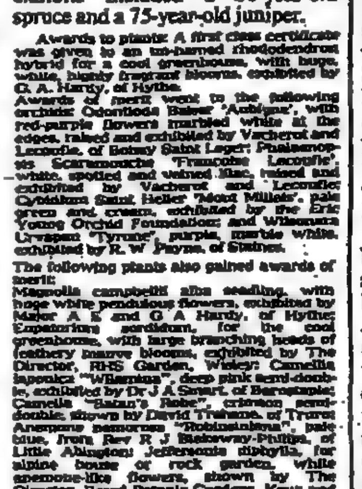
Another discovery he described would convert the gas burnt off on oil rigs (a mixture of propane, butane and methane) into high-value raw materials for petrol, plastics, fibres and dyestuffs.

The conversion of the small molecules which make up the waste gas to more useful larger ones (benzine, toluene and xylene) depends on a new catalyst. It is based on a family of clay minerals called zeolites.

OBITUARY

GENERAL MARK CLARK

Commander of Allied armies in Italian campaign



General Mark Clark, who died in Charleston, South Carolina yesterday at the age of 87, played a notable role in the Italian campaign during the Second World War first as commander of the US Fifth Army and subsequently in command of the 15th Army Group which made him commander of the Allied ground forces in the Italian Theatre.

After the end of the war he was United States Commanding General in Austria. In the 1950s as United Nations Supreme Commander in the Far East he presided over the signing of the armistice which terminated hostilities in the Korean War.

Mark Wayne Clark was born at Madison Barracks, New York, on May 1, 1896. Educated at Deerfield School, Highland Park, Illinois, and the United States Military Academy, West Point he graduated in 1917, and was commissioned into the infantry.

He served with the 11th Infantry in France until June 1918 when he was wounded in action while commanding a company in the Vosges sector. He next joined the Supply Division of the First United States Army, and in this post took part in the operations at St. Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. He stayed on in Europe with the United States Army of Occupation, and was with the Third Army at Antwerp from April to June 1919, and later at Coblenz.

It was as a Lieutenant-Colonel that Clark joined the newly formed General Headquarters, United States Army, in August, 1940. It was in this position that he played a big part in planning the important Army manoeuvres of the spring of 1942.

In May, 1942, was promoted temporary Major-General and appointed Chief of Staff, Army Ground Foces. While with G.H.Q. and Army Ground Forces, Clark was concerned not only with training but also with integrating units and building up new divisions of the rapidly expanding Army.

Clark was selected to be Commander of United States Ground Forces in the European Theatre of Operations under Eisenhower, and he left for England in June, 1942. A period of hard training followed in which Clark concentrated on long marches and battle inoculation with machine gunfire and artillery as close to his troops as possible. Clark was next appointed Deputy Commander in Chief of the Allied Force for the North African landings.

In November, 1942, shortly before the landings, Clark, with a small staff, travelled secretly by submarine to the coast of Algiers. He was able to make contact with the French leaders, to get information about troop dispositions, make arrangements for allied use of airfields and other preparations for the coming invasion. It was a hazardous under-taking, and Clark's great height made him conspicuous, but after a series of adventures and narrow escapes he returned safely to England, his mission accomplished. As might have been expected, the whole thing appealed greatly to Winston Churchill.

Clark was Eisenhower's deputy in the actual invasion, and further conferences with Admiral Darlan resulted in a French ceasefire in Algiers and thus greatly assisted the landings. While his dealings with Darlan gave Clark a lasting distaste for the political side of command, General Juin remained a close friend for the rest of his life.

It was as the Commander of the Fifth Army in the invasion first of Sicily and then of Italy that Clark showed what a fine soldier he was. Both in the Salerno bridgehead and the subsequent Anzio battles he displayed leadership and courage of high order, and welded his international team into a fine fighting force.

His handling of the campaign, however, did not go uncriticized. The 36th Texan Division had heavy casualties at the Rapido crossing and the Division's veteran organization charged Clark with reckless waste of life – a matter that was later taken up by Texan senators and undoubtedly affected his postwar carreer. His insistence that it should be American troops who first entered Rome, when there were good tactical reasons for the British to do so, also invited criticism, and the way in which he allowed himself to be flattered by Roman society did not go down well with his soldiers.

In November, 1944, Clark was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Fifteenth Army Group in Italy. Thus the British Eighth Army as well as the United States Fifth Army was under his command. He was promoted to full General in March, 1945, shortly before the surrender of the German armies in Italy.

In July, 1945, Fifteenth Army Group was dissolved, and General Clark became Commander-in-Chief, American Forces in Austria. He was also the United States representative on the Austrian Control commission. It was his experience in Austria which led Clark to be completely mistrustful of Russian and communist methods and motives.

In 1947 General Clark, with the rank of Deputy United States Secretary of State for the purpose, sat in London and Moscow with the Council of Foreign Ministers negotiating a treaty for Austria.

In August, 1949, he became Chief of the United States Army Field Forces, supervising all training in the United States. While observing manoeuvres in Germany in 1950 he recommended that the number of American troops there should be increased.

In 1950 Clark published his first book, *Calculated Risk*, which gave a vivid and readable account of his experiences in the Second World War. His account of the Salerno battle and the narrow margin between failure and success is of particular interest to the military student. He came out firmly against the bombing of Cassino, and like Montgomery condemned the 1944 Allied landings in Southern France as a serious political mistake which weakened the Italian campaign and so allowed the Russians to capture Vienna.

In October, 1951, President Truman proposed General Clark as United States Ambassodor to the Vatican, but the appointment was opposed on the grounds of his being a Protestant and by the implacable Texan senators. A reason for withdrawing the nomination was found on the legal grounds that Clark could not accept the appointment and retain his military status.

Clark's next military task was perhaps his most difficult, and was his last as an active soldier. In April, 1952, he was appointed to succeed General Ridgeway as United Nations Supreme Commander in the Far East. In June of that year Clark announced that the United Nations mission was to bring about at the conference table an honourable armistice to the Korean conflict, but the political manoeuvres involved were distasteful to him. Moreover, he found the business of serving two masters – the President in his capacity as United Sates Commander-in-Chief and the United Nations (for which he had scant respect) in his capacity as United Nations Commander-in-Chief – far from easy.

The armistice was signed, but Clark later recalled: "In carrying out the instructions of my Government I gained the unenviable distinction of being the first United States Army commander in history to sign an armistice without victory." It was really as a result of this that in October 1953 he retired from the Army.

From 1954 he was President of the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina.

In his book *From the Danube to the Yalu* (1954) he described his difficulties and achievements as Commander-in-Chief United Nations Command in Korea from May 1952 to October 1953. It is a valuable account, written primarily for American readers, and deals with his clearing up of the Koje Island mutiny, and gives high praise to the "Fine Commonwealth Division". It is critical of the United Nations in producing for the Korean war such a small effort in relation to their potential.

Clark brought to his leadership outstanding personal courage and a flamboyant touch. He was a man of great character and energy, but was impatient of the brake which political considerations put on military issues. Always preferring to confer near the scene of action, he earned his title of "front line general" and was above all a soldier's soldier.

Channing School Highgate

The governors are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Isobel Raphael to the headship of Channing School from September 1, 1984. Mrs Raphael is currently head of classics at the City of London School for Girls.

Royal Caledonian Ball

The Royal Caledonian Ball will be held on Monday, May 21, at Grosvenor House, London, W1. Tickets at £22 are available from the Secretary, 94 Elms Road, London, SW4 9EW. Telephone 01-622 6074.

Latest wills

Sir Bruce White, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, consultant engineer, who supervised the designing of the floating Mulberry harbours used in the 1944 Allied invasion of Normandy, left estate valued at £2,318,820 net.

Commander Leonard James Burt, of Putney, London, Commander of the Special Branch, New Scotland Yard from 1946-58, who brought William Joyce, Lord Haw Haw, to justice, left estate valued at £150,692 net.

Mr Alfred Jack Levine, of Marylebone, London, left estate valued at £865,760 net.

THE ARTS

Tony Palmer, the film and television director, tonight stages his first opera, *Turandot*, at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow. Some of the keys to Puccini's unfinished work, he writes, lie in the composer's private life

A vain quest for final reconciliation

The problem with *Turandot* is that Puccini left it unfinished. In 1924 the pains in his throat were finally diagnosed as cancer and, despite surgery in Brussels, he died without completing the music for the last two scenes. His pupil and friend Alfano somewhat reluctantly agreed to provide an appropriate end based upon the already existing libretto and Puccini's sketches. We now know that Toscanini, who conducted the première, edited Alfano's work, declaring that there was "too much Alfano and not enough Puccini". Recently, thanks to the efforts of Alan Sieveright among others, Alfano's original ending was performed at the Barbican. Unfortunately neither Alan Sieveright nor Alfano, it seems to me, approached the heart of the matter. It is not that Puccini failed to finish *Turandot* because he died of throat cancer; it is that he could not finish it.

The bulk of Puccini's creative output was written in less than two decades, between 1890 and 1908. Although he lived for a further 17 years, he only produced three one-act operas, *La Rondine*, described in the Ricordi score as an operetta, and an unfinished work. Yet here was a man who loved wine, women and song (more or less in that order), fast cars, motorbikes and yachts – in other words the good life. He needed to earn money, as he had no resources of his own other than the payments he received from his Milanese publisher, Ricordi. He did not announce after *Fanciulla* that he was retiring (like Sibelius); he did not suffer any major critical reverses. The public adored his work and performances of it were frequent and worldwide. Something must have happened, therefore, which stopped him in his tracks. And that something, I believe, provides a clue to the real meaning of *Turandot*.

Puccini had first met Elvira Gemignani, the wife of a merchant from Lucca, in about 1880. He was 22. Four years later they eloped, and in 1886 she bore him his only child, a son, Antonio. Although Puccini had discovered the village of Torre del Lago, ten miles from Pisa, in 1884, he did not finally move into his own house there until the summer of 1900. The village, which had only 12 houses, was described by Puccini as his "Eden", his "Paradise".

Elvira's first husband died late in 1903, and on January 3, 1904, Elvira and Puccini were married. Almost immediately afterwards the Puccini household took on a full-time maid, Doria Manfredi. Doria had already worked for them as a part-time nurse (following a car accident involving Puccini) for almost a year, but now entered the Puccini establishment as an indispensable domestic helpmate to the most famous Italian alive.

Puccini's reputation as a ladies' man had some justification, but he seems to have behaved towards the 17-year-old Doria with impeccable restraint. Elvira, on the other hand, after ten years of an illegitimate relationship, was in no mood to tolerate any threat to her position. She began a campaign of deliberate vilification against Doria, accusing her of sexual provocation towards Puccini followed by consummation. She even demanded from the local priest – who had married them in 1904 – that he inform Doria's parents of the child's immorality and expel her from the village. Uncertain of the truth, the priest (who was, incidentally, only partially sighted) refused the girl Holy Communion.

Eventually, Doria could stand it no more and swallowed poison. The poison failed to work properly, and the girl took five days to die, screaming in agony for much of that time. The post-mortem found that Doria was still *virgo intacta*; consequently, Doria's parents brought an action against Elvira for defamation. Elvira lost in the courts, and was sentenced to five months' imprisonment.

Puccini's relationship with Elvira, never stable, was wrecked. He refused to take her to New York for the première of the recently completed *La fanciulla*. In 1915 he wrote to her: "You sneer when the word 'art' is pronounced: this has always offended me, and offends me still." Elsewhere: "You . . . have poisoned my existence . . . You are mad! . . . I am leaving . . ." Of Doria, Puccini wrote to his friend Sybil Seligman: "I can't get her out of my mind – it's a continual torment."

I am not suggesting for one moment that the story of *Turandot* is a thinly disguised version of the story of Doria Manfredi. Far from it. Puccini had known the *commedia dell'Arte* play by Count Gozzi, upon which the opera's libretto is based, since 1880, and had actually considered it as a suitable subject for an opera on several occasions before the tragedy of Doria Manfredi. But I do believe that when, in 1919, Puccini wrote to one of his librettists, Simone, suggesting *Turandot* as a subject for an opera, he had by this time recognized in the story elements to which he responded in the most profound way. He plagued Simone and his fellow-librettist Adami with endless changes and embellishments, even scribbling at one point in the margin "no one will ever understand this libretto, except me, because no one else will ever know what it is about". The character of Liù, the servant girl who dies for love, does not exist in the Gozzi play, nor in the first draft of the libretto. She was a character entirely of Puccini's invention. And Puccini even wrote to a friend that it was irrelevant whether *Turandot* was located in China: "It could just as well be set in Japan, or in Norway."

Was Puccini seeking to exorcise the nightmare of Doria Manfredi in the creation of Liù? Was his own complex relationship with Elvira being explored through the relationship between Calaf and the Princess Turandot? Was Timur a memory of the partially sighted Roman Catholic priest of Torre del Lago, whose religion taught that Christ had died on the cross to save our souls? Were this all to be so, then the last two scenes of the libretto – which involve the reconciliation between Calaf and Turandot, after the death of Liù – must have been impossible for him to contemplate, since reconciliation in any heart-warming sense between Puccini and Elvira did not, and could not, take place. In other words, Puccini simply could not face the emotional and psychological implications of his own libretto.

Feverishly, he tried to solve his own riddle. It is known that he made at least thirty attempts to write music for the last scenes. But, like the many suitors of Turandot before Calaf, he failed. "All my music that I have written up to now seems to me a farce", he wrote. He hoped that the last duet would be the climax not only of the work but of his life. "Two beings . . . transformed into humans through love." But the memory, perhaps, of Doria and Mimi and Cio-Cio-San, one and the same person in his imagination – except that Doria was not a dream but an immensely painful reality – proved too much.

At the first performance in Milan, Toscanini laid down his baton at the death of Liù, turned to the audience and said: "At this point, Puccini broke off his work. Death on this occasion was stronger than art". Such a melodramatic gesture is not enough. Quite apart from structurally unbalancing the opera, it is a million miles from the centre of Puccini's greatest work. And it *is* his greatest work: musically innovative, dramatically daring, full of invention, terse almost, certainly exhausting in its intensity, a direct challenge to audience and performers alike.

Until the last scenes, the opera's text is permeated with religious guilt and symbolism – Puccini's sister was a nun – above all with a horror of the idea that only through sacrifice can we achieve redemption and forgiveness. Until the death of Liù *Turandot* is a huge and passionate outbust against those who believe in the ideal of true love. Its genius is that it utters such a cry without bitterness or self-pity. It has a tragic dignity befitting a man whose mind was as racked with self-doubt as his body was with cancer, who believed that life's progress was one of innocence laid waste. In this context the last scenes, completed by Alfano, make no sense at all. Puccini hoped that they would be the climax of his creative life.

One final note. Among the earliest enthusiasts of *Turandot* was Igor Stravinsky. He saw it on approximately six occasions during the first year of its life. He was at the time writing his opera-oratorio *Oedipus Rex*.



Puccini while working on *Turandot* – "a man whose mind was racked with self-doubt"

Galleries

Edward Wolfe

Patrick Seale

One thing about the Cedric Morris exhibition at the Tate is that it inevitably starts one making invidious comparisons: if a figure as admittedly marginal as Morris is deserving of such an imposing commemoration, why not . . .? An obvious candidate for such treatment would surely be Edward Wolfe, who died in the same year, 1982, at almost as advanced an age (85), and was without doubt a far better painter than Morris.

Lacking as yet the major retrospective that seems to be called for, we can meanwhile get some idea of Wolfe's range and talents in the show *Edward Wolfe: Early Decorative Art – The Bloomsbury Period*, at the Patrick Seale Gallery, 2 Motcombe Street, until the end of the month. Wolfe's connexion with Bloomsbury was important in his career: he came over from his native South Africa at the age of 19, studied at the Slade, and got to know Nina Hamnett, by whom he was introduced to Roger Fry and recruited to the Omega Workshops. The present show, despite its title, ranges over his whole career, but in another sense the label is justified, because he continued to be affected throughout his long working life by the particular local adaptation of Post-Impressionist colours and formal devices so enthusiastically promoted by Fry and promulgated to the unwilling English through the relatively unquestioned channel of the decorative arts.

Not that Wolfe was ever content to be just a passive follower in the wake of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell. Some of the early works, notably a couple of very decorative abstractions, certainly come from the same world, but in general he incorporated such elements into his own highly individual and constantly evolving style. His landscapes, for instance, use a much richer palette than Grant's ever did, and at the same time show a quite personal sense of the forms beneath the brilliant surface. His portraits have a similar strength but also, especially with the women, a delicacy which sometimes suggests Marie Laurencin. And it is impressive, as we move through the Thirties, to see how he can take the measure of such usually overwhelming influences as Picasso and the Mexican muralists, use as much as is useful to him personally, and discard the rest.

Perhaps the most striking thing about any collection of Wolfe's work is the clear, unfeigned delight he always took in the world around him, and the glow of pleasure with which he transferred it to canvas: he is, for a British painter, amazingly unpuritanical and trusting of the senses. But thoughtful too: the combination of sensuality and critical intelligence in his work imperatively demands a closer and longer look.

John Russell Taylor

Theatre

Volpone

The Pit

A portly young bourgeois, first thing in the morning, demands to see his heaped-up wealth. He states he is no merchant, no farmer, no entrepreneur; how did he get it? By running one of the most famous con-tricks in English comedy like a profitable business. Bill Alexander's fascinating production, premièred in Stratford last September, sees the most sinister aspect of *Volpone* as its mundaneness; instead of a wild farce, it is more often a black satirical comedy of the driest sort, holding the mirror up to everyday human greed and gullibility.

Calling matter-of-factly on gout, palsy and catarrh to aid his impersonation of an invalid, Richard Griffiths (who looks more like Henry VIII than ever in his final disguise as a Venetian official) sacrifices the poetic flights and swelling sensuality, but it is worth it for the nasty shock of seeing a Volpone so like ourselves. Selling medicine in the mountebank scene, he simply finds his natural profession: advertising. Miles Anderson's spivvy, slick-haired Mosca is a natural accomplice but also a backstreet survival fighter – stung, when the boss overextends their charade for sheer pleasure as an actor and moral critic, to take steps that destroy both of them.



Donald Cooper

Richard Griffiths: "The nasty shock of seeing a Volpone so like ourselves"

Alison Chitty's set of sombre Jacobean panelling, converting into a gloomy and heavily-overlooked square or a deserted church for conspiratorial get-togethers, constantly suggests the solid interiors where business, not farcical impersonation, takes place. The bribes of the legacy-hunters are simply business ventures, and business tempts them to anything. John Dicks's sunken-cheeked Corvino swings his wife's chastity belt like a shopping basket as he switches from keeping her locked up to whoring her for gold. Henry Goodman's equally saturnine Voltore clearly spends nights sick with professional worry.

Partnering a Sir Politick (Bruce Alexander) who suggests a Foreign Office wiseacre habitually getting things wrong, Gemma Jones parades her erudition, lusts visibly after a black court usher and berates her maid with the ruthlessness of the parvenu: as a pampered wife, she is as much a parasite as Mosca. Rarely, and then only towards the end of its four hours, does the production cease to be funny or lose its beautifully assured grip on a leisurely, deadly pace. And, thanks to weirdly inventive visual comedy plus Guy Woolfenden's mischievous score, an unnerving grotesqueness always accompanies the grim depiction of man's degradation and folly.

Anthony Masters

Dance developments

Scottish Ballet in jeopardy

There is a strong feeling among those people who see the work of all the British dance companies that the Scottish Ballet has been the most successful of them over the past 10 to 15 years. Which makes it especially alarming that, just as the rest are being told by the Arts Council to emulate what the Scottish Ballet pioneered, that company's future has been thrown in jeopardy by lack of funds for new productions.

The company's chairman, Roy H. Thompson, announced in Glasgow yesterday that, unless £105,000 can be raised by sponsorship or other means before the end of next month, the Scottish Ballet's only big new production for 1984, a full-evening *Carmen* by Peter Darrell, will have to be postponed indefinitely. About £15,000 has already been committed, including the cost of a score created by Dominic Muldowney from mostly unfamiliar music of Bizet, and designs by Terry Bartlett. Now the time has come to start making scenery and costumes, but a year of seeking sponsors has produced no result so far.

The company is careful not to blame the Scottish Arts Council which, it says, has treated it "reasonably well" in relation to other needs in Scotland. But over the last five years its grant has risen by only 32.1 per cent, leaving it actually worse off after inflation. All the leading English companies have fared much better, up to twice as well. If Scottish Ballet had kept pace only with Ballet Rambert, which had the smallest increase in the south (51.3 per cent), the difference would have paid for *Carmen* and gone a long way towards planned productions by Christopher Bruce and Michael Clark next year.

What is at stake is more than a new production. The Scottish Ballet's success is based on a good balance of classics and new works, on taking ballet to large cities and small towns throughout Scotland, also on educational and community work. Voices have been heard suggesting that it could economize by concentrating on small-scale modern work. But the public wants big, narrative classical ballets (exactly what Darrell does best) and the dancers want the inspiration of created roles. Without them, Scotland could soon find itself without the national ballet that has done more for Scotland's reputation abroad than any other artistic enterprise.

The Arts Council of Great Britain unfortunately has no say in what happens north of the border. However, it will be busy today with another matter that affects all the British dance companies: whether to support proposals for a national theatre for dance.

John Drummond's report, discussed on this page during January while he was gathering evidence, has been completed and rushed through the Dance Panel quicker than some members would have liked. Today its author personally puts his case to the full council.

The idea of a purpose-built theatre remains a distant hope. More practicable for early action is the conversion of an existing London theatre. Some think the election will light on the Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, with the nearby Astoria providing studios and a smaller auditorium. Most would prefer Drury Lane. But oppositin within the profession to any expenditure on bricks and mortar remains surprisingly strong, however shortsighted.

John Percival

Concerts

Hallé/Macal

Barbican

Bruckner has arrived at last at the Barbican. If the occasion was rather less auspicious than it might have been, it was a result less of inadequate playing than of Zdenek Macal's underestimation of what it takes to draw out the particular quality of the "Romantic" in his Fourth Symphony.

Macal has been a frequent guest conductor at the Hallé for nearly 10 years, so he knows his players. Their present lack of a distinct virtuoso character or any strongly instinctive self-motivation can be a refreshing and useful quality in itself; but it throws an even greater burden of necessity on making every note work hard.

It was good to have the textural edges cleaned and honed afresh; but too much at the centre was left to look after itself. The very rhythmic self-limitation, the harmonic naivety of the work, requires more than circumspect literalism if it is to cross the line from laboriousness to wonder. The simpler the phrase, the more care it needs in the moulding; the more basic the rhythmic unit, the more its inner energy and cumulative potential must be sapped. As it was, tension was built too often by crude volume contrast alone; metre was underworked, silence underexploited.

A similar sense of constriction muted an otherwise creditable performance of Elgar's Cello Concerto. Robert Cohen's own reading of the work is becoming more concentrated, more closely and privately lyrical in a beguiling, if not yet deeply revelatory, way. But it is still small-scale, and Mr Macal made the mistake of weakening rather than strengthening orchestral support.

His players were conscientious, at times over-tentative, accompanists; but they cannot be mere followers. Thanks to Mr Cohen we saw a finely observed, cultivated pencil cartoon: it was for Mr Macal to encourage its development into a more tautly, boldly defined canvas.

Hilary Finch

Mazurkevich Duo

St John's/Radio 3

Palm Court reared its head briefly in Smith Square on Monday at lunchtime, when the two-violin duo of Yuri and Dana Mazurkevich ended their recital with the smoochy duet *Navarra*, by Sarasate, in which scales cascaded in thirds from high in the leger lines and the piano of Clifford Benson pounded with graceful abandon. There was also a touch too much Palm Court for my depravedly purist taste in the duo's voluptuous rendering of Handel's Trio Sonata, Op. 2 No. 4, with which they began. Both performances revealed the duo as well schooled in the Russian violinistic manner, intense and unrelenting in tone, but they also showed that Yuri had a firmer grasp of intonation than Dana, whose glissandi occasionally ended on not quite the right note.

The duo also gave two unaccompanied items. Among all those English composers of the last generation whom we are repeatedly told are being neglected, Alan Rawsthorne stands very high, and a revival such as this of his 1937 Theme and Variations for two violins proves that his music should never be out of the repertory. This small masterpiece shows the same command of string writing as his taut Second and Third Quartets and the Violin Sonata for Szigeti, and the characterization of each variation – the Anglicised Bartok of violent octaves over a folk-like melody, or the stuttering noises of muted dissonances – is managed with consummate skill.

If the duo did not here reveal all the colouristic sharpness in what was presumably an unfamiliar idiom, they brought too gaudily coloured brush strokes to the more demonstrative intricacies of Spohr's Duo in E major of 1816. Here some problems tuning the multiple stopping threatened to turn the music sour, but the weight and vigour of the playing, especially in the virtuosic opening Allegro and the final polonaise-style Rondo, overcame its stylistic limitations. A modest but worthwhile contributions to the current Spohr bicentenary.

Nicholas Kenyon

FT - ACTUARIES INDICES

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500 SHARE INDEX	569.06 (567.49)
*EARNINGS YIELD	9.68% (9.70%)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.23% (4.24%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.74 (12.71)
ALL SHARE INDEX	524.02 (523.02)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.41% (4.41%)
* estimated	(previous close)

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248	160	Cent Ind TV NV	283	•	9.3	4.0	14.2
390	110	Cornell Hldgs	253	−6	3.5	5.8	7.3
60	43	Fed Housing	60	+3	3.0	[illegible]	[illegible]
146	114	Gee (Cecil)	146	+8	2.0b	2.2	13.9
101	66	Godwin Warren	98		7.1	1.8	16.8
430	335	Merrydown Wine	395		9.4	5.9	13.8
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920	265	Micro Focus	870	..	2.9b	1.1	..
298	140	Microlease	280	..	2.9	7.2	24.8
270	133	Miles 33	233	..	1.7	3.7	18.1
51	25	New Court Nat	46	−2	0.7	2.8	5.9
31½	22½	Owners Abroad	27¼	• −½			
52	8½	Parkfield Fndry	35	..	2.4	1.3	29.8
203	150	Pericom	188	..	2.5	1.7	26.9
155	123	Securiguard	143	..	2.5		
88	48	S W.Resources	63	..	2.6	4.1	..

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A lucky hit on the borrowing target

Public borrowing in 1983-84 was remarkably close to target – £9.8 billion compared with the £10 billion predicted by the Treasury last autumn and again at Budget time. But this unusual accuracy was something of a fluke. Without the suspension of Britain's £516m EEC budget rebate due last month, the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) would have been about £9.3 billion, slap in line with City estimates.

Not that the City was particularly pleased with yesterday's figures, which showed higher than expected March borrowing of £1.97 billion. Gilts were accordingly marked down £⅛, but the markets found it hard to get excited over past history. Nothing in the figures upsets the general consensus that the Government's £7.2 billion borrowing target for 1984-85 is well within reach – especially since the overdue EEC rebate will now come through in this financial year.

The Government can afford itself a gentle pat on the back. There was no repitition of last year's eleventh-hour spending scramble by government departments, helped perhaps by new rules which permit some carryover of unspent allocations. Spending over the year was 7.75 per cent higher than in 1983-84, a bigger increase than the 5.5 per cent planned, but a good deal less than was feared last autumn.

State industries finished the year having borrowed a remarkably low £100m (after grants and subsidies), compared with the £700m predicted at Budget time. Officials are said to be pretty relaxed about the course of central government spending in the present year, now planned to rise y 5.5 per cent, marginally more than inflation.

But town hall spending remains a headache. Last year local councils overspent their budgets by about £1 billion, forcing the Government to give them £600m extra this year to help keep services going. Even so, they will feel the squeeze; the Budget Red Book shows an increase of only 2.5 per cent in their total spending (including interest) in 1984-85, compared with actual spending in 1983-84, which means a sizable cut in real resources. Already it seems clear they will need at least another £800m. By the end of the year, with agriculture costing ever more and the social security budget inexorably rising with the dole queues, ministers may be only to glad of their £2.75 billion spending reserve.

The Prudential thinks big

Are Britain's insurance companies, considered one of groups most vulnerable to the winds of change ruffling Britain's financial services, likely to form links with the mighty clearing banks and building societies?

This was the intriguing thought to emerge yesterday from a speech given to The International Bar Association by Mr Brian Corby, chief executive of Britain's largest insurer, the Prudential Corporation, who is widely considered to be the country's most dynamic insurance chief. Significantly, Mr Corby drew attention to the financial industries of South Africa and Canada, which are dominated by combined groups of banks, insurance companies, building societies and security dealers.

Britain's insurance companies have been warned by the Government, in no uncertain terms, to expect competition. The building societies want to move in, the Citicorp of the United States intends to play a hand, and there are harbingers of movement and merger throughout the City.

As Mr Corby rightly points out, the setting up of a new intermediary insurance business increases, but does radicaly alter, the nature of the competition. He is worried about the emergence of all-embracing financial groups offering their own insurance products through their own retail outlets.

Mr Corby agrees that there are too many insurance companies and building socities today, but is fearful that after the dust settles there may be too few. And he questions whether a building society could fairly claim that its own insurance products were the best when insisting that a customer for housing finance needs insurance.

Interestingly, the Building Societies Association has recently been making palcatory noises about establishing "new relations" with the insurance companies that provide them with some £250m of commission a year. Obviously, the building societies pose the greatest threat to insurance companies and to the clearing banks retail operations.

At present, the insurance companies and building societies are restricted by law from moving outside of their own areas of activity. But that can change; and quickly. New technology, Mr Corby says, "has now developed from merely helping us to do our business more effectively to enabling us to do other businesses as well at little additional cost. The potential for the future is clearly enormous".

Mr Corby argued that it may be appropriate to extend Professor Gower's investor protection recommendations into a broader review of the financial services

And – perhaps unsurprisingly – he concluded that there was a need to put the various financial institutions on a more equal footing, "particualrly where their areas of activity overlap".

Trafalgar House listens to P & O

These days we tend to regard annual meetings as little more than a day out for the small shareholders. But yesterday Mr Nigel Broackes, chairman of Trafalgar House, and Mr Ian Fowler, his company secretary, felt it was worth their while to exercise their rights and hear Mr Jeffrey Sterling's words of wisdom at the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation company's meeting.

Mr Broackes wanted to hear what Mr Sterling had to say about P & O in last week's letter, responding to Trafalgar's reservations about the P & O accounts.

Before the meeting Mr Broackes said he was there to listen, not to speak. After he had listened [illegible] not spoken and the 90-minute me[illegible] had ended he said he was still not en[illegible] [illegible]tisfied.

Mr Sterli[illegible] [illegible]d said first, that some extra corporation tax would be paid over the next three years; second, that there would be no need to establish a deferred tax account out of existing stockholders' funds; and, third, that there could be a need for P & O's associates to make a provision. P &O's share, he said, is unlikely to be greater then £20m. When told of Mr Broackes continuing reservations, Mr Sterling said no-one could possibly clarify the true position until the Finance Bill goes through. That, however, is not likely until July – several weeks after the date on which Trafalgar Houe is entitled to renew its bid for P & O.

Barclay twins recoup £44m with Cameron brewery sale

By Derek Pain

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, the McEwan and Younger group which has for long sought to extend its retail operations, is to take over J. W. Cameron and Co the Hartlepool Brewery which has 540 public houses and off-licences, it was announced yesterday.

The deal, subject to Office of Fair Trading clearance, valued Cameron at £44.5m. It was clinched against strong bidding from other interested breweries.

Cameron last changed hands only five months ago when the hotel-owning Barclay twins – David and Frederick – paid a reputed £48m for the parent Ellerman Lines brewing to shipping group.

After the Cameron sale Ellerman still embraces Tollemache and Cobbold Breweries of East Anglia and extensive shipping interests.

It was the heavily-losing shipping fleet which forced Ellerman, a private company owned by charitable trusts, to seek a buyer. Mr David Barclay said yesterday: "The shipping losses have now been stopped and we are heading for profit this year."



David Nickson: handing over nine of his hotels

The brothers decided to sell Cameron because a Northern brewery did not fit in with its interests. Part of the cash proceeds will be used to develop their other activities, including the revitalized shipping line. They also intend to extend Tollemache and would like to acquire a southern brewery which would dovetail with the East Anglian group.

The takeover lifts the Scottish and Newcastle pubs and off-licence chain to 2,200. This is low compared with other major brewing groups and Scottish and Newcastle, which, itself has often been the subject of takeover speculation, it needs more tied outlets to give more marketing muscle in its battle for "free" trade outlets such as clubs and supermarkets.

Scottish and Newcastle, is Britain's largest "free" trade brewery. Its own pubs account for only 17 per cent of its output. In the past few years the group's trading outlook has improved dramatically. For the current year City analysts are forecasting profits of up to £55m.

The group, headed by Mr David Nickson, is paying £35m cash for Cameron and handing nine of its Thistle hotels, valued at £9m, to the Barclay brothers. It has raised the cash by placing shares among institutional investors at 112p each. The shares fell yesterday 2½p to 116½p.

The share placing is conditional on the takeover going through. Cameron produced profits of £3.7m last year, compared with only £517,000 in the previous year when it was hit by a long-running strike. Its peak profit of £4.4m was achieved in 1979.

● The opening round in the hard-fought legal battle for control of another northern brewery, T & R Theakston, has gone to the Lancashire brewery Matthew Brown & Co.

Boost for Rowntree

Shares of Yorkshire-based Rowntree Mackintosh surged 26p to a record 284p amid growing speculation of an imminent bid. More than 1 million shares changed hands in active trade with two Swiss groups Nestlé and Jacobs Suchard tipped as the most likely contenders.

Nestlé, which last week revealed plans for its first issue in 10 years, was quick to deny the speculation. But a spokesman for Jacob Suchard refused to comment.

At last night's close Rowntree was valued at nearly £400m, but dealers estimate that a bid, if it is to succeed, would need to be between 350p and 400p a share.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1110.2 up 4.6 (day's high 1112.9, low 1104.8
FT Index: 879.8 up 4.6
FT Gilts: 82.03 down 0.04
Bargains: 22,534
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 113.51 *down* 0.06
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1165.10 up 4.82
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,906.40 down 113.27
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,088.12 up 12.64
Amsterdam: 172.3 down 0.5
Sydney: AO Index 763.0 down 1.63
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1031.9 up 6.0
Brussels: General Index 154.37 down 0.26
Paris: CAC Index 171.3 up 0.3
Zurich: SKA General 311.50 up 0.6

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling
$1.4205 down 5pts
Index 79.8 unchanged
DM 3.7450 down 0.0090
FrF 11.5525 up 0.0075
Yen 320.00 down 0.0075

Dollar
Index 127.5 down 0.1
DM 2.6425 up 0.0085

NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling $1.4215
Dollar DM 2.6425

INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.595131
SDR £0.742674

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8½
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 8½ - 8⅝
3 month interbank 8 15/16 - 8 13/16

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10⅞ - 11
3 month DM 5 11/16 - 5 9/16
3 month FrF 13¼ - 13

US rates
Bank prime rate 12.00
Fed funds 10 7/16
Treasury long bond 95 1/16 - 95 5/16

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 7 to April 3, 1984 inclusive: 8.976 per cent.

Co-op Bank profits up but tax dent looms

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Co-operative Bank, the innovative clearing bank owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, yesterday reported much improved profits for last year and it expects gross profits to increase again this year. But the Budget tax changes will take a big chunk out of this year's net profits, possibly as much as £5m.

It will be the second time in four years that the group's retained profits have been sharply reduced by government measures. The bank was one of the worst sufferers from the original windfall tax on the banks which absorbed nine-tenths of its 1981 earnings.

Pretax profits last year recovered from £1.7m to £7.5m, helped by reduced losses of £500,000 in the finance house subsidiary First Co-operative Finance, which lost £2.3m in the previous year. The improvement within the bank reflected cost-cutting measures, growth and the pay-back from past investments. Co-operative Bank had made virtually no provision for deferred tax on leasing. Because of the Budget changes it has provided £2.9m as an extraordinary item in last year's accounts, which reduced retained profits for the year to £3.9m, and it may now have to make a further £5m provision

Ford's profits drop despite sale record

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Ford of Britain, which has recently announced investment plans totalling more than £280m, yesterday revealed pretax profit figures for last year of £178m, a dip of £16m on 1982.

The pretax profits were made on turnover up from £3,287m in 1982 to £3,585m in 1983. Once again, the British company was boosted by interest earned on loans to the American parent; net interest and other income was £80m

The British company issued a special discount notr for £645m to the American company during the year which is not due for repayment until January 1987, however, Ford US repaid short-term promissory notes of £387m

Ford UK stressed yesterday that its post-tax profit for 1983 of £142m (down £50m) was badly affected by further extraordinary charges of £245m, leading to a loss for the year of £103m. These charges are a £200m provision to meet deferred taxes arising from the Budget's proposed changes in capital allowances and corporation tax, and £45m to cover factory closure costs

The company said that while 1983 was a year when the whole motor industry was facing competitive pressures, Ford car sales in the UK rose to a record 518,048, an increase of 43,856. Dagenham and Halewood produced 54 per cent of the Fords sold in Britain.

New home loans rise to 10.50%

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The Nationwide Building Society, Britain's third biggest, is to raise its mortgage rate for new customers from 10.25 per cent to 10.50 per cent from May 1. Existing borrowers are unaffected.

The new rate will apply to mortgages of up to £40,000. Above that the rate will be 11.5 per cent.

But for first-time buyers the pill is sweetened by a rebate in the first year equal to ¼ per cent of the amount advanced – reducing the effective rate paid to 10.25 per cent. The rebate will be available as soon as the mortgage agreement is signed and borrowers can use it to offset repayments in any month they choose, though most are expected to take it straightaway.

The Nationwide has reluctantly decided to follow most other societies in charging more for large loans, which it says has given them an edge in competing for savings.

It announced yesterday that its bonus accounts are to be replaced by a new "Bonus 7" account – paying 1 per cent over the ordinary share rate of 6.25 per cent on a minimum investment of £500. Money can be withdrawn at seven days' notice, or in demand with the loss of only seven days' interest.

£15m silicon plant for UK

A £15m investment by an inependent American company, Integrated Power Semiconductors (IPS), at Livingston, West Lothian, was announced yesterday.

The plant, the latest addition to the "Silicon Glen", will manufacture integrated power circuits and will provide 500 jobs by 1989.

IPS was formed by a group of Californian electronic specialists and the project ranks as one of the biggest investments by the private sector in an independent venture.

The funding was drawn together by 3i Ventures from New Market Venture Capital, Charterhouse Japhet, APA Venture Fund and CIN Industrian Investment. They are claculated to have provided about £9m towards the project, with £5m from the Government.

BP will take Lithgow rig after all

By Our Industrial Staff

British Petroleum has agreed to take delivery of the much-delayed drilling rig which has been lying unfinished at the Scott Lithgow shipyard on Clydeside for the past seven weeks.

BP cancelled the rig in February, shortly before British Shipbuilders finally reached agreement to sell the yard to a private sector consortium headed by Trafalgar House.

The rig is almost complete, but is 14 months late. The cost of construction has risen to nearly £80m, against the original price quoted to BP of £60m.

BP said yesterday that it had decided to withdraw cancellation of the rig as a result of negotiations with British Shipbuilders. A new delivery date has been set for July 31 this year and BP will receive compensation from the shipbuilding corporation.

No figures have been disclosed, but industry sources estimate that the compensation will be about £15m.

The compensation costs will be additional to the £88m which the Government has made available to British Shipbuilders, to cover the cost of selling Scott Lithgow to the private sector.

£21m increase for Hawker

● Hawker Siddleley Group, the international electrical and engineering company, has increased pretax profits from £116.2m to £137.5m for the year to December 31, 1983. Turnover also increased from £1,407m to £1,457m. The final dividend of 7.1p makes 11p for the year compared with 9.8p last time.

Tempus, page 18

● S Pearson & Son, owner of the *Financial Times*, Penguin Books and the Royal Doulton china group, announced a £17.5m increase in pre-tax profits to £77.4m. This was more than expected and the company's shares rose 37p to 538p. A final dividend of 9p is being recommended, raising the total for the year by a quarter to 14p.

Tempus, page 18

● Northern Engineering Industries yesterday announced an 8 per cent rise in pretax profits to £42.7m on sales of £872m (£867m). The dividend is raised from 4.75p to 5.25p, and the group reported a sharp improvement in group liquidity and a continuing strong order book.

Tempus, page 18

● ADWEST GROUP: Interim 1.5p (1.4p adj). pay June 6. (figures in £000) Pretax profit 2,655 (2,401) for half year to December 31, 1983 Tax 1,173 (791). Minorities 33 (20). Extraordinary debt nil (224). Shares 148 down.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am $380.30 pm $380.20
close $380.00-$380.50 (£267.25-£267.75)
New York (latest): $380.50
Krugerrand* (per coin):
$391-392.50 (£275-276)
Sovereigns* (new):
$89.25-$90.25 (£62.75-63.50)
*Excludes VAT

Pensions tax plea

By Ronald Faux

The Government was yesterday urged not to remove tax relief on contributions to pension funds. Mr J. A. Eddison, chairman of the Scottish Life Assurance Company said in Edinburgh at the first annual meeting of the company to be attended by the press in more than a century, that too often press rumours carried the authenticity of a leak and when it received support from no less than the Governor of the Bank of England, it could not be ignored.

"It is being argued that the tax relief given on contributions to pension funds is a special privilege which should be swept away in the interests of giving the individual greater freedom to invest his savings as he wishes. This argument overlooks the fact that an employer may choose to pay pensions to retired employees out of current income

"I urge the Chancellor not to take action which would destroy the occupational pension schemes

NEWS IN BRIEF

168 oil tankers are idle

A total of 168 giant oil tankers totalling 50 million deadweight tons have now been laid up by world ship owners, the London shipbrokers E A Gibson reported yesterday.

The total, up by 2 million tons on a month ago, is the result of continuing lack of business out of the Middle East Gulf. There are currently 13 crude oil carriers of 3.5 million deadweight tons awaiting cargoes in the Gulf, and another 15 ships are due in the area in the next two weeks.

● THE GOVERNMENT'S latest sale of shares in Associated British Ports was oversubscribed yesterday when the application list closed despite Monday's sudden fall in the stock market.

Final details will be published today, but Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank handling the issue said the indications were that the issue had been oversubscribed between one and two times. The striking price at which shares are allotted is still expected to be in the 270p to 280p range, compared with the minimum tender price of 250p.

● THE BRITISH NATIONAL Oil Corporation in its first full year of operation in the sole role of oil trader has achieved the Government's target of making a small profit while still being able to control North Sea oil prices.

BNOC, which by law handles the sale of at least 51 per cent of North Sea oil, handled an average of 13 million barrels of oil a day and had an annual turnover of £8 billion. Its after-tax profit was £300,000.

● AMERICAN EXPRESS, the US financial group, last night denied that it was selling Fireman's Fund, its troubled insurance subsidiary.

● THE ATTEMPTS BY Britain's clearing banks to buy into Stock Exchange firms have all been cleared by the trade department on the advice of the Office of Fair Trading.

The verdict against a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission covers Barclays' interests in Wedd, Durlacher and de Zoete & Bevan, Natwest's planned stake in Bisgood, Bishop and Midland subsidiary Samuel Montagu's link with W. Greenwell.

● CITICORP, AMERICA'S LARGEST bank and rapidly expanding as a substantial UK financial supermarket, has been tipped as the latest buyer for takeover favourite Hogg Robinson, the insurance and travel group.

Hogg's shares refused to follows the market down on Monday and shed only 2p to 202p. Two stockbroking firms say that on trading grounds the shares are overvalued above 190p.

Citicorp has obtained permission from the US Federal Reserve Board to enter the UK life insurance market and says it has a list of potential candidates. Hogg has consistently denied bid rumours.

Comfort Hotels doubles profits

By Jeremy Warner

Comfort Hotels International more than doubled its profits last year.

On sales up from £26.5m to £32.3m, pretax profits rose from £1m to £2.4m. Included in the results is a *first time contribution of £200,000 to £300,000* from the Londonderry Mayfair which was acquired last March.

The chairman, Mr Henry Edwards, said the company was confidently expected to continue its progress and would be recommending a final dividend of 0.52p lifting the total for the year from 0.65p to 0.74p.

Strikes Restaurants, the group's separately quoted USM offshoot, made pretax profits of £791,000 against £659,000 last time. It is paying a final dividend of 1.1p making a total for the year of 1.6p.

Contracts have been exchanged for Strikes to purchase a 60 per cent interest in Croissants de Provence (French Francs) to be satisfied by the *issue of 85,106 new shares.* It has an option to buy the remaining shareholding in due course.

Croissants de Provence has two mainly takeaway outlets in London which it supplies with French croissants and pastries from its own bakery. It is forecasting profits of not less than £30,000 for 1985.

Comfort Hotels said that all the indications were that the progress recorded in 1983 would be continued into the current year through a broadly-based improvement in occupancy and average room rate. With better occupancy levels, Comfort was able to reduce its degree of discounting last year. And this month it put through a series of increases in prices which averaged 7 per cent.

Comfort Lodge, the company jointly owned with British Land, has made progress in realizing its aim of having five lodges operating by the end of 1985. Construction of the first hotel, which aims to provide three-star value at a two-star price, will start shortly at Swansea and is due to open in the Spring of next year.

The Abingdon Room which is a new addition to the Rainbow Suite and Kensington Exhibition Centre opened on schedule this year and has already been chosen as the venue for a number of exhibitions over the next two years.

A recent revaluation of the freeholds of the Park Plaza, Viceroy *and Charles Dickens* Hotels in London has produced a surplus over book value of £6.5m.

Dayville's Ice Cream, which Comfort hopes to float on the unlisted securities market in a few years, continued to make progress last year.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Swiss bid talk lifts Rowntree to record

By Michael Clark

The gnomes of Zurich have acquired a taste for shares of **Rowntree Mackintosh** and were behind yesterday's flurry of activity which saw the shares leap 26p to a record 284p.

It now looks as though a bid for the Yorkshire-based Yorkie-to-Kit Kat sweets manufacturer may be just around the corner with the Swiss companies, which claim to know a thing or two about chocolate, leading the assault.

At last night's close Rowntree was capitalized at nearly £400m and dealers were talking of a bid of between 350p and 400p a share. The Rowntree board broke off from yesterday's annual meeting with shareholders to deny any rumours it had already received an approach.

A spokesman said: "The board is not aware of any reason for the activity in the share price". Favourites to make a bid are the Swiss food group's Nestlé and Jacobs Suchard. Only last week, Nestlé announced plans for a rights issue

Spring is a strange time to be discussing Christmas but it is all they talk about these days round at Park Foods, Britain's largest distributor of Christmas hampers. Sales are expected to climb from 500,000 hampers to nearly 700,000 this year which has enabled the share price to rally to 93p – just 2p short of last year's tender price. The board may now use this renewed confidence in the shares to launch a series of acquisitions.

– its first in 10 years – despite already sitting on a strong balance sheet.

Last night a spokesman for Nestlé said from its headquarters in Vevey, Switzerland, there was "no truth in the rumours".

In Zurich, a spokesman for Jacobs Suchard refused to comment on the suggestions it was preparing to launch a bid.

Dealers estimate that more than a million shares in Rowntree changed hands yesterday and the bulk of these will have found their way across the Alps.

The overnight rally on Wall Street paved the way for a firmer performance on the London market after Monday's shake-out – the worst in nearly two and a half years. Prices were marked higher at the outset helped by some good figures from *Hawker Siddeley,* up 36p at 453p, after 461p, and takeover speculation.

However, the fast approaching Easter break, tomorrow's NUM delegate meeting, rising interest rates and the long three week account combined to make sure prices closed below their best levels as the buyers again retreated to the sidelines.

The FT index closed 4.6 up at 879.8 having been 7.0 higher earlier in the day. The new FT-SE 100 rose by a similar amount to 1110.2.

Gilts remained agitated by the economic outlook on both sides of the Atlantic and *continued to lose ground in quiet trade.* Falls closed above their worst levels of the day whichextended to £¾ in longs and £1¾ in shorts.

Gratton enjoyed a rise of 6p to 94p after the board lunched with stockbroker Williams de Bröe in the City. Williams de Broe continuing to recommend the shares as a "buy" for recovery. The rest of the retail sector has a quieter time than of late with **Currys** again meeting profit taking losing 7p to 351p. Investors attention has been focused onCurrys by the price Woolworth is prepared to pay for rival Comet. **Comet** ended the day unchanged at 222p, while Woolworths advanced 7p to 513p.

Waterford Glass rose 13p to *a new high of 44p following* news of an approach which could lead to an offer being made for the issued share capital of the Irish crystal cut-glass manufacturer. At this level Waterford is valued at £93m. Crest Holdings owns just over 20 per cent of the shares and is *tipped as the likely bidder.* Irish Life Assurance also holds between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the issued quity.

Arthur Henriques, the textile group, has also received an approach and responded with a rise of 7p to 39p, after 45p. The group at this level is worth £1.56m and its biggest shareholder remains the ITC Pension Fund with 10 per cent of the shares.

On a timely note, broker Montagu Loebl Stanley has been taking a look at the miner's strike and those companies most affected by the *action. AAH, down 1p at 111p,* should be bought on the first signs of an end to the strike, or further weakness. **Dobson Park,** ½p lower at 34½p, is also worthy of a buy recommendation and there are hold recommendations for **Dowty Group,** unchanged at 126p, and **Burnett & Hallamshire,** down 10p at 180p. The only sell is **Hargreaves Group,** 1p shy at 83p.

In shipping **John I Jacobs** slid 1p to 53p after Jacobs and Partners announced they had sold 1.5 million shares reducing their total holding from 6.51 per cent to 3.97 per cent of the total.

banks failed to hold on to their early leads as nervous selling developed. **Lloyds Bank** lost 3p *to 619p after broker Wood* Mackenzie decided they were no longer worthy of a buy recommendation. Wood Mackenzie says the shares have performed extremely well since the figures and budget. But uncertainty over Latin American debts over the next few *months could prove unsettling.* As a result it is now only recommending the shares as a hold.

Barclays lost 3p to 479p along with **National Westminster** 5p lighter at 652p. Only **Midland** closed up on the day after news of last week's losses from Crocker in the US with the price adding 5p at 369p.

The leading insurance composites spent another lacklustre day as the sector endured a further welter of bearish circulars. Analysts recommend investors continue to take profits in **Commercial Union,** down 3p

The investment trust, Gresham House has decided to sell some of its holdings in the USM-quoted Resource Technology, the exploration services group. The broker Grieveson Grant placed 1.4 million shares this week and there was a further 250,000 shares placed by another seller yesterday. The shares have all been placed with institutions and reduces Gresham House's stake to 1.3 million shares (14.4 per cent). Recource rose 9p to 174p yesterday.

at 222p, and **Phoenix,** up 4p at 470p, after recent speculative support.

Among leading industrials BTR lost 3p to at 473p, while **Beecham** added 2p at 323p, **Blue Circle** 2p at 413p, **BOC Group** 8p at 287p, **Bowater** 1p at 323p, **GEC** 3p at 184, **Glaxo** 15p at 875p and **Tate & Lyle** 3p at 413p.

Even **ICI** managed to put in a *late spurt helped by renewed* buying from the US where the shares remain a firm favourite with investors. The shares closed 14p dearer at 608p.

There was selective support for oils with **BP** climbing 5p to 495p after taking delivery of a new oil rig for the North Sea. **Shell** added 3p to 643p along with **Tricentrol** 3p to 208p, **Lasmo** 2p to 333p, **Ultramar** 5p to 692p, **Weeks Bermuda** 10p to 385p, **Britoil** 5p to 265p, while **Burmah** closed unchanged.

Equity turnover on April 16, was £283.012m (23,014). The total of British and Irish shares traded was 164.9m. Gilt bargains totalled 3,871.

The big High Street clearing

Fisons to take over Spanish company

Fisons has received the Spanish Government's approval to acquire Roncales, a Zaragossa pharmaceutical company, which trades as Laboratories Casen, for £1.6m cash. Casen markets a range of medical speciality products.

After the completion of the necessary formalities, Fisons will construct a new pharmaceutical factory with sterile finishing and chemical processing facilities.

The Fisons chief executive, Mr J. S. Kerridge, said that the acquisition would provide Fisons pharmaceutical division with a sound base from which to expand its activities in Spain.

This also completes the network of pharmaceutical subsidiaries in leading European markets.

In brief

● SPONG HOLDING: (Figures in £000). Sales 1767.8 (1023.8) *for 1983.* Pretax profit 36.7 (loss 101.9). Extraordinary dbts nil (104.8). EPS 0.33p (loss 2.8p).

Results were achieved by improved performance from the existing businesses and by a first time contribution from Bacchante which was acquired *last April and Brigade Products* acquired last October.

● HARRIET THREE WELL: The Harriet Three Well, off shore Western Australia, has recovered high quality oil at a maximum stabilized rate of 3,276 barrels a day in a drill stem test through a ⅞-inch choke bond. The test also flowed 1.63 million cubic feet of gas.

● BRITISH AEROSPACE: Sir Austin Pearce, the chairman, has told shareholders that the year has started with money in the bank and with ample facilities from banks to meet *funding requirements,* including its share of the A320 programme.

● BRISTOL OIL AND MINERALS: Acceptances for the recommended offers by Bristol to acquire Osprey have been received in respect of 1,071,794 ordinary shares (82.43 per cent). Accordingly, Bristol now controls 1,206,795 existing ordinary shares (992.82 per cent).

● TARMAC: Tarmac constuction has acquired a 70.84 per cent shareholding in Pasco Engineering of Harrow for £1.755m. Pasco provides management, consulting and engineering services to oil, gas, petrochemical and related industries.

● JACKSONS: The company has agreed to sell land having a balance sheet value of £425,000 for £575,000, payable in cash. The purchaser is a private company and the completion is due on April 27.

● T C HARRISON: Final 1.68p making 2.3p (2.2p adj) for *1983. (Figures in £000).* Turnover 92,688 (81,440). Trading profit 3,699 (3,155). Interest 488 (135). Pretax profit 3,211 (3,020). Tax 303 (1,042). Extraordinary charge 1,740 (nil). EPS 12.89p (8.77p adj).

● B. S. G. INTERNATIONAL: Dividend 0.65p *making 1p for 1983. Figures in £000.* Turnover 288,300 (258,200). Trading profit 7,467 (3,422) being vehicle distribution 3,195 (1,992). Manufacturing 4,272 (1,430). Interest 4,200 (4,713). Pretax profit 3,267 (1,291 loss). Tax 522 (609). Minorities 218 (299). Extraordinary debt 359 (1696).

● HARRISON COWLEY (HOLDINGS): Final 2.95 making 4.55p (4.2p) for 1983. (figures in £000) Sales 20,694 (17,642). Pretax profit 710 (557). Tax 345 (302). EPS 7.3p (5.1p).

● *HAWLEY GROUP: Hawley has completed the purchase* of 77.9 per cent of Fraser Henderson for £190,389 to be satisfied by the issue of 226,652 ordinary shares credited as fully paid and payment of £8,692 cash.

● STEEL BROTHERS HOLDINGS: Final 9p making 13p (11.5p) for 1983, pay July 2. (figures in £000) Group turnover 119,566 (128,898). Pretax profit 11,061 (10,016), after interest 1,890 (4,173) and *depreciation* 4,107 (3,819). Tax 3,671 (3,098), minorities 669 (306) Extraord credits 5,175 (debts 186).

TEMPUS

Hawker Siddeley set for acquisition trail

Hawker Siddeley's impressive results were far higher than the most optimistic predictions. They signal not only a breakthrough from its traditional profit levels of the past five years but also genuine signs of recovery in the electrical and electronic engineering sector. Much of Hawker's improvement in this area is attributable to a good performance in the US but there were signs of upturn in Britain which filtered through to the domestic mechanical engineering sector.

The group also continued to accumulate cash rapidly, £89m during the year, which left bank and cash deposits of £275m at the year-end, with borrowings of only £156m. With so much money at its disposal, it cannot be too long before Hawker moves once again onto the acquisition trail which it left so abruptly when the purchase of John Brown Engineering fell through last year. If profits growth is to be maintained at the new level, then the group will not want to rely solely on what it can squeeze out of its present mature operations.

Hawker has managed to avoid many of the pitfalls which face engineering companies trading in a variety of overseas countries, particularly in the Third World. There are signs that the lack of international credit is posing problems, with many construction projects being postponed. So far the group has remained unscathed and careful management will ensure this position is retained.

The changes in corporation tax have not helped Hawker's after tax position. It will inevitably end up paying more tax, leaving less for the shareholders, and this year has been forced to make a £31m provision for deferred tax which had not been provided for. This adjustment was made directly through reserves.

The share price soared 47p to 461p, leaving the company on a price-earning ratio of 10.7. This has been a fairly standard rating for both the company and the sector. As recovery in the electrical engineering sector continues to gather pace and further progress is made in the US, the group might justify a p/e of about 12 and a share price of between 500p and 520p would not be unreasonable.

S. Pearson & Son

S Pearson & Son duly rewarded its growing City fan club yesterday with news of a much better than expected 29 per cent leap in pretax profits for last year. Despite the nine-week *Financial Times* dispute last summer which is estimated to have cost £6m, profits roared ahead to £77.4m.

The real action appears to have been at Westminster Press, where the two-year rationalization programme combined with a general upturn in advertising expenditure to produce a dramatic profits recovery. But Penguin, Royal Doulton and, to a lesser extent Longman, Lazards and Fairey Engineering also produced an impressive about-turn, helping to lift the group clear of the profits plateau of the previous two years.

There has been an equally remarkable improvement in the balance sheet where net borrowings have fallen to £78m, or from 36 per cent of shareholders' funds a year ago to 22 per cent now.

The current year looks set for another big jump in profits to £90m or more. The *Financial Times* always does well in a bull market and the same *factors should be helpful* to Lazards.

While recovery in the Camco oil service business in the United States is probably still another year away, the Goldcrest film production company – currently undergoing a capital reconstruction *which will reduce it to associate groups* – should begin to make a sizeable contribution. Last year it made a modest profit after the start-up losses of former years and it has some high-potential films – notably Mr David Puttnam's *The Killing Fields* – due for release in *1984.*

S Pearson's diverse collection of businesses have one common feature – their quality standing within their own industries. This has yet to be fully reflected in the company's share price, even after yesterday's 37p hike to 538p.

Northern Engineering

Northern Engineering's figures contain two fairly black spots, Extel Corporation the group's ambitious foray into the Yankee electronics industry, nearly fell apart last year as the whole US telecommunications industry splintered under deregulation. Extel's operating losses doubled to £9.5m and other North American losses pushed the total up to £11.8m.

Meanwhile, on Northern's much-vaunted Indian super-thermal-power contract at Rihand, the group may face a hefty bill for contract completion delays.

A whole string of wrinkles also blemish the figures. Tradfally, like the new order intake (£763m). Extraordinary debits total £5m, reflecting wholesale rationalization moves. A 10 per cent dividend rise to 5.25p cannot be described as over-generous.

But yesterday the shares put on 8p to 93p, some 17p off the all-time high, as the market looked through transient trading problems to concentrate on massive *structural changes* taking place in the group. The drive, for example, to improve balance sheet ratios has pushed net cash balances up nearly £30m to £63m (29p a share), leading to an upswing in net investment income of £7m. A further 2,000 jobs will go this *year but the group stands, it* feels, on the brink of an indefinite productivity breakthrough. Stock turn is still rising, like the capital: sales ratio.

The market is disposed to take on trust Northern's soothing comments on its 1983 blackspots, especially since the total order book is still worth 18 months' business. Extel should generate £3m profits in the US during this year's second half, and break even for the year; fears about the tricky Indian contract may prove groundless.

Perhaps analysts' hopes for 1984 of £50m pretax, and a target p/e of 6 on earnings of 15½p will turn out right. Northern, however, is now keen to use its balance sheet muscle and hit the takeover trail, preferably for electronics companies and – possibly by issuing paper. A New York listing might be one way to boost the current rating, but with 28 brokers attending yesterday's analysts' meeting, old-fashioned London buying may provided the solution.

British Land buys £4m shopping mall

By Our City Staff

British Land yesterday completed the £4.3m purchase of the Cowley Centre, a purpose built shopping complex in Oxford, and announced property sales in London and Northern Ireland.

The property group has bought the Cowley Centre from Oxford City Council. The 240,000 square feet comprises 71 shops, five stores, two banks and about 6,125 square feet of offices. It has parking for up to 1,000 cars.

British Land has sold two properties in Belfast and a 10,000 year leasehold property of ground floor retail and office space in London for a total £2.1m which, added to other recent sales brings the proceeds from disposal of surplus property to £14m.

The group has also exchanged contracts on its interest in Willowbank and Carrara Wharfs near London's Putney Bridge.

As part of British Land's attempt to rebuild its reputation of an imaginative and successful property group, it paid £5m jointly with Power Securities two months ago for what is believed to be the last remaining prime site in Dublin's *financial and banking district.* A £20m retail and office centre is planned, on the site near St Stephens Green.

Bank backs buy-out at Capper

National Westminster Bank, which put in the receiver at the Capper Neill Group, is backing a management buy-out of the company's pipe services subsidiary.

Three directors have completed negotiations with the receiver, Cork Gully, for 75 per cent of Capper pipe services contracts, to provide a £2m turnover and save 150 jobs, despite the decision against grant aid by the Department of Industry.

The new company, Buildtile, to trade as Capper Pipe Service, will operate throughout Britain.

MONEY MARKETS

Period rates held steady throughout a day of low *activity. Dealers said the easier* state of nearly funds offset continuing worries about US money trends and the miners' dispute.

Business was concentrated at the short end of the market. One month certificates of deposit were bought at 8½ per cent, having been issued in some size at the outset.

Overnight money interbank hovered in the 8½ to 8¼ per cent region, but, in the final *stages,* dropped to about 6 per cent before climbing again to about 9 per cent.

Local authorities were quiet.

Dollar rates softened after the steep *fall in March US starts. Business, however,* was on the small side.

Day-to-day money conditions eased markedly when the Bank of England forecast a £150m, shortage.

Early indications were that the market would want to pick up some relatively cheap money rather than unloading its bills.

This was confirmed at mid-day, when only £63m of paper in bands two, three and four *was sold to the authorities.*

The Bank then raised the shortage to £250m. Rates firmed slightly making the houses more willing to offer bills when the Bank operated later.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8½%
Barclays	8½%
BCCI	8½%
Citibank Savings †	9¾%
Consolidated Crds	8½%
Continental Trust	8½%
C. Hoare & Co	*8½%
Lloyds Bank	8½%
Midland Bank	8½%
Nat Westminster	8½%
TSB	8½%
Williams & Glyn's	8½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6¼%: £10,000 up to £50,000, 6¾%: £50,000 and over, 7¼%.

Border issues £15m debenture

By Christopher Dunn

The stockbrokers de Zoete & Bevan yesterday completed flotation of the first debenture to be issued after the 1984 Budget's liberalizing tax moves on corporate debt, by placing £15m of stock maturing in 2014 for the Border & Southern Stockholders Investment Trust.

Terms of the new stock were worked out by reference to the 3 pm price yesterday of Treasury 13¼ per cent 2004/08. On this basis, the coupon on the new Border & Southern debenture is 11½ per cent, and the issue price is 98.19 per cent. The stock rates a 1.2 per cent premium on the comparable gilt-edged issue. Dealings start at 2 pm on April 19.

Under new Inland Revenue regulations announced in the *Budget,* debenture stock, but not convertibles, are free of capital gains tax, if held for a year and a day. The new tax moves bring corporate debt into line with gilt-edged stock issued by the Government and reflects moves to open up the market in funded corporate debt.

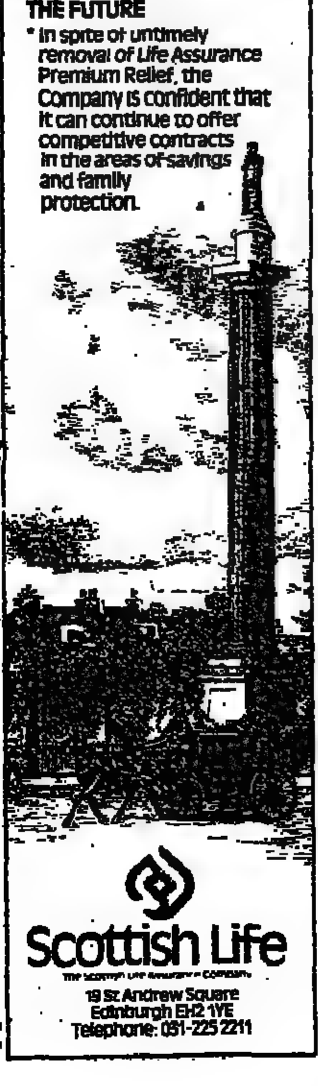
A de Zoete & Bevan spokesman said that there had been no difficulty in placing the stock.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The pound held steady throughout in continued light trading ahead of the holiday weekend, closing almost unchanged at 1.4205 (1.4210) against the dollar, while its wider international value ended at 79.8 (same).

Sterling tended to harden late in the day in step with a firming *dollar, and managed small improvements* over the Deutschemark 3.7550 (3.7500), Swiss franc 3.1150 (3.1100), and French franc 11.5525 (11.5350).

The dollar repeated its recent narrowly mixed pattern for much of the session before edging higher in the final hour on support from New York.



APPOINTMENTS

Sedgwick names managing director

Sedgwick UK: **Mr W. R. White-Cooper** has become managing director.

Carless, Capel and Leonard: **Mr Jack Barton** and **Dr Eric Bosshard** have joined the board.

The Scottish Lion Insurance Company: **Mr J. R. Charman**, general manager and marine underwriter, together with **Mr T. J. Newson**, assistant general manager and non-marine underwriter, have been made directors.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland: **Professor W. C. C. Morrison** is the new president.

Estates Property Investments Company: **Mr D. R. Poole** has become managing director and **Mr D. V. Udall** has been appointed financial director. Both are existing members of the board.

Theodore Goddard & Co: **Christine Lerry**, **Mr John Kelleher**, **Mr James Harman**, **Claire Meltzer** and **Mr Hamish Porter** will become partners on May 1.

Gray Mackenzie & Company: **Mr E. S. Hunter** has been appointed chief executive Gulf.

Watts Blake Bearne and Company: **Sir Ian Heathcoat Amory** has been joined to the board in place of **Mr D. L. Fox** who has resigned after serving as a director for more than 20 years.

Foreign & Colonial Management: **Mr Oliver Dawson** has become chairman. He succeeds **Mr Derek Baer** who will remain on the board.

The Second Alliance Trust: **Mr Robert C. Smith** has become chairman in place of **Mr George E. Dunn** who retires from the chair and as a director of the company.

Gerald Eve & Co: **Mr Hilary M. Eve** has retired from the company. **Margaret E. Thomas** has retired as an associate and **Mr Reginald A. France** retires as an associate on May 1. **Mr Michael R. Sharp**, Glasgow office, **Mr Anthony M. Chase** and **Mr Simon W. B. Chalwin** are appointed associates.

Independent Computer Engineering: **Mr Brian Johnson** has been appointed executive chairman.

Fleetcare: **Mr Bernard Lott** has become managing director of the company which is the automotive care and maintenance division of the National Freight Consortium.

Omes Faulkner: The following have joined the board: **Mr William B. Close**, as works director; **Mr Kenneth Lobb**, commercial director; **Mr David J. Rooke**, production director, and **Mr David J. Worrall** as personnel director.

Federated Housing: **Mr M. K. Holloway** has been made a non-executive director.

Solicitors' Law Stationery Society: **Mr J. A. Holland** has been appointed a director.

Mersey Docks and Harbour: **Mr James Fitzpatrick**, managing director and chief executive, has been appointed chairman. He will be succeeded as managing director and chief executive by the present port services director, **Mr Trevor Furlong**. The appointments take effect from June 16 and are prompted by the retirement of **Sir John Page** after four years as chairman.

Engineering Polymers: **Mr Huw Radley** has been made managing director of the company.

Balterley Bathrooms: **Mr R. R. Miles** has become a director.

Tetra Pak British Isles: **Mr Bertil Hagman** has been appointed executive chairman and managing director; **Mr Keith Paterson** becomes deputy managing director; **Mr Alistar Napier**, marketing director; **Mr Peter Steinthal**, finance director; **Mr Olle Andersson**, production director; **Mr Norman Stewart**, technical director; **Mr Håkan Nilsson**, company secretary; **Mr Charls Aiken**, general manager, branch office, England and Wales.

Economic Commentary by Tim Congdon

Monetary history could repeat itself if miners keep echoing 1970s

If there is anything to be said in favour of Mr Arthur Scargill, the mineworkers' leader, it is that he has made people think back to the early 1970s. They were not the most glorious years in British history. In economic policy, the period is mostly remembered for the collapse of Mr Edward Heath's dash for growth in 1974. The miners' strike destroyed an incomes policy which the Conservative Government had thought could control inflation.

History never repeats itself exactly. The economic situation now is in most respects very different from that at any stage in the early 1970s. But there are some parallels and they are not to be found only in industrial relations, but also in monetary policy. Some recent trends in credit and money growth are similar to those seen at the beginning of the Heath-Barber boom.

Much of the interest in a comparison between the two periods lies in the lesson it gives on how to conduct monetary policy. In 1972 and 1973, there was an active debate between two schools of economic comment. The first argued that the economy was not expanding too fast because unemployment remained rather high by the standards of previous cycles, while narrow money measures, notably M1, were increasing at moderate rates.

The second, which was led by Mr Peter Jay, then the Economics Editor of *The Times*, and Professor Alan Day of the London School of Economics, said that the boom was unsustainable. In their view, money supply growth was clearly excessive and would result in much higher inflation. They focused on broad money measures particularly M3, to justify their pessimism.

We all know now which group was right. Inflation went above 25 per cent in 1975, while national output, after a 7 per cent jump in 1973, fell by 1.6 per cent in 1974 and a further 1.1 per cent in 1975. The broad-money followers proved more successful in predicting events than the narrow-money school. The disagreement between them may have seemed theological and arcane, but it proved to be of great importance in understanding the social and political crisis which Britain was about to experience.

The new relevance of the 1972-73 debate arises because narrow and broad money have started to grow at different rates. The provisional March money supply numbers illustrate the pattern. The narrow-money measures are rising moderately with the latest Treasury favourite, M_0, behaving particularly well. But the growth of broad money and credit is accelerating.

The acceleration of broad money growth is less obvious with sterling M3 than with PSL2. As sterling M3 includes only bank deposits, its growth is regulated by the expansion of bank credit. But PSL2 includes both bank and building society deposits, and so it can grow quickly if mortgage lending is very buoyant.

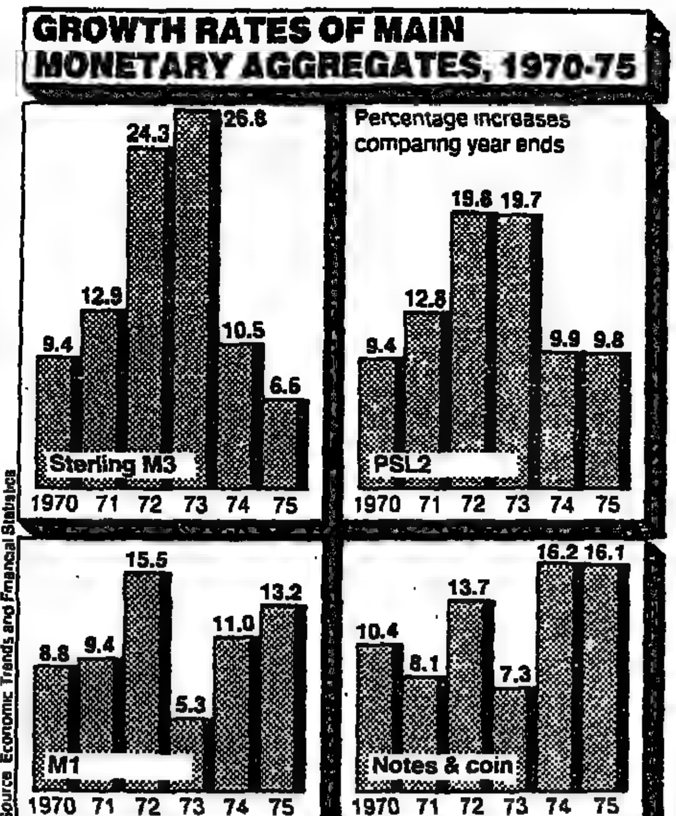
Over the last 12 months, mortgage lending has steadily gathered momentum. In consequence, PSL2 growth has increased. In the year to March, PSL2 rose by 12 per cent, in the three months to March, at an annual rate of 15¼ per cent, and in March itself, at an annual rate of almost 20 per cent. The recent rates of change are far above the official target ranges for either broad or narrow money.

The interesting – and disturbing – point here is that the Heath-Barber boom began in very much the same way. The starting point is often thought to have been the 1972 Budget. In fact, it can be dated to the middle of 1971. Bank rate was cut from 7 to 6 per cent on April 1 and then to 5 per cent on September 2.

These interest rate reductions were soon followed by an explosion in building society lending. The quarterly figure for the societies' net advances, which had averaged £196m in 1969 and £272m in 1970, exceeded £450m in the second half of 1971 and peaked at about £600m in late 1972 and early 1973. The growth of PSL2 accelerated as well, reaching almost 20 per cent a year.

The upturn in mortgage credit created a very active housing market and was associated with strong consumer spending. The general economic improvement, accompanied by the relaxation of bank lending restrictions in the Competition and Credit Control reforms, stimulated companies' demand for credit. In 1972, M3 leapt by 27 per cent and in 1973 by 28 per cent.

It was numbers like these which caused Mr Jay and Professor Day to ring the alarm bells. They ignored the behaviour or the narrow money aggregates, which gave a much more complacent message. At the time, M1 was the only measure which people looked at closely. Its growth did accelerate



from 9½ per cent in 1971 to 15½ per cent in 1972, but then slipped to only 5½ per cent in 1973.

Equally unsatisfactory as a guide to the coming inflationary trauma was the note and coin issue which constitutes most of M_0. Its average yearly increase between 1971 and 1973 was under 10 per cent, far less than the increase in prices that was to be recorded in 1974 and 1975.

ing inflation rate. It does not anticipate events, such as the inflation rate in a year or two.

The reason for this failing is not hard to seek. M1 is dominated by current accounts, and both current accounts and the note and coin issue are used for transactions. People can make current accounts suit their needs by switching money out of deposit accounts, while the note issue can be adjusted in the same way by cashing cheques. In jargon, narrow money is "demand-determined".

The growth rates of the main monetary aggregates, 1970-75

All figs are % increases, comparing end-year with end-year.

	M1	Sterling M3	PSL2	Notes and Coin
1970	8.8	9.4	9.4	10.4
1971	9.4	12.9	12.8	8.1
1972	15.5	24.3	19.8	13.7
1973	5.3	26.8	19.7	7.3
1974	11.0	10.5	9.9	16.2
1975	13.2	6.6	9.8	16.1

Sources: Economic Trends and Financial Statistics

Why were M1 and the note and coin issue so unreliable in giving signals about inflation? Why were they discredited as worthwhile monetary indicators by the outcome of the Heath-Barber boom? The answer, in a nutshell, is that narrow money reflects what is happening today, in particular the prevailing inflation rate.

In other words, the level of M_0 and M1 depends on the money value of the transactions people want to carry out and that, in turn, depends on today's inflation. So it was not surprising that when price increases were fairly low in the first two years of the Heath-Barber boom M1 and the note and coin issue grew modestly. In 1974 and 1975, long after the inflationary horse had bolted, they grew rapidly. By then action was too late. Policy-makers were helpless before the stampede of price rises made inevitable by the excessive expansion of credit and broad money in 1972 and 1973.

Today, once again, credit and broad money are growing quite quickly. There are signs of imminent further acceleration. The 1 percentage point cut in mortgage rates announced on March 16 has already encouraged the demand for mortgages. The building societies' net new commitments to lend were an all-time peak of £2,333m in March, up from £1,849m in February and £1,507m in January.

So far, the situation has been manageable because the weakness of companies' credit needs has offset the vitality of the personal sector's. But this could change if the recovery induces more investment and stockbuilding. Sterling M3, which went up by a disappointing 1¼ per cent in March, might then move clearly and embarrassingly outside the Government's target range.

With unemployment at three million and still rising, it will be a long time before serious inflationary pressures return. To highlight the risks of excessive credit and money growth may therefore seem premature. An early interest rate rise would, indeed, be unnecessary masochism in present circumstances.

But the Heath-Barber boom demonstrates how easy it would be to misread the monetary data and postpone measures until they are overdue. Despite reviving economic activity, inflation may stay down and be associated with low growth of narrow money, including the M_0 aggregate which now receives so much attention in the Treasury (if nowhere else). Meanwhile, credit and broad money might be expanding at rates incompatible with long-term inflation control.

Could there be another monetary debate in 1985 and 1986 comparable to that in 1972 and 1973? It seems quite likely. If Mr Scargill is still on the rampage, the industrial and financial scenery will be remarkably similar to that of a decade ago.

The author is economics partner at stockbrokers L. Messel & Co.

Wickins seeks £17m for US expansion

By William Kay, City Editor

The expected rights issue from Mr David Wickins' British Car Auctions materialized yesterday, and it was even bigger than the market had been led to believe.

The group, which runs car auctions in this country and the US, is raising £17.2m through an issue of four new shares for every 13 held, at 98p compared with a market price of 115p, down 2p of the news of the deal.

It will be a test of the City's faith in Mr Wickins, as the scheme will add 30 per cent to the issued share capital. The new shares will not rank for the interim dividend, already announced, to be paid on July 31.

In an effort to steady any fainthearts, Mr Wickins has said that he will not issue any more shares, other than as part of commitments to meet options. The last rights issue was in March 1983.

He is also forecasting that British Car Auctions will make a profit before tax and extraordinary items, of not less than £8m for the year to July, compared with £6m last year. *This is £1m less than some of* the bulls had been hoping for but again, the market had been prepared for the forecast to be toned down.

The fresh capital is being raised in the wake of rapid expansion in the US. National Bank of Detroit will be repaid £12.6m out of the proceeds. The other £4.6m will be used to cut British bank borrowings.

The directors expect to pay a final dividend of "not less than" 1.8p net for the current year, payable next January. This would be a 10.5 per cent increase on the previous year.

Mr Wickins also reports that the pace of expansion in the US is set to slow. Talks are taking place with a view to buying an auction in Pennsylvania, and there may be "one or two" more such deals. But growth thereafter will be mainly internal. "There is considerable potential to expand the existing auctions", said Mr Wickins.

For the next year, the group faces further payments as part of deferred instalments on purchases made in the US over the past 18 months. After that, the group's cash flow will enable it to plan further moves.

Mitchell Cotts settles for £2.6m compensation

Mitchell Cotts, the overseas trader with engineering and transport interests, has at least settled compensation terms with the Ethiopian Government after the nationalization of its cotton plantation company in 1975.

Protracted negotiations in Addis Ababa over the Tenaho Plantation Share Co have achieved a compromise which will pay Mitchell Cotts £2.6m, against a book value of £2.2m.

Ten per cent will be paid immediately with the rest in 14 six-monthly instalments, plus interest, from October.

The Ethiopian Government has also agreed to the remittance of outstanding dividends due to Mitchell Cotts before nationalization. All payments will be in sterling in London.

WALL STREET

Charter denial by Allianz

A report that the West German Allaianz group was interested in acquiring insurance business from the financially-beset Charter company of Florida, brought a strong denial yesterday

A spokesman in Munich refused a **Wall Street Journal** report that Charter has approached Allianz with a sale offer for three life insurance units.

The paper had quoted industry sources as saying that Charter's chairman, Mr Raymond Mason, had approached Allianz and other companies.

Allianz has already signed a letter of intent to buy Arnau insurance business, subject to a favourable review of operations.

But an Allianz spokesman said that evaluation, originally expected to take two months had proved more difficult than expected and a firm decision would not now be taken until May.

	Apr 16	Apr 13
AMF Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMR	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Chem	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allis Chalmers	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alcoa	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amax Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amerada Hess	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Brands	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Broadcast	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Can	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Cyanamid	[illegible]	47
Am Elec Power	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Home	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Motors	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Nat Res	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Standard	[illegible]	[illegible]
Am Telephone	[illegible]	[illegible]
Armco Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Asarco	[illegible]	31
Ashland Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Atlantic Richfield	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avon Products	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bankers Tst NY	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bank of America	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bank of Boston	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bank of NY	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beatrice Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bethlehem Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boeing	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boise Cascade	[illegible]	[illegible]
Borden	[illegible]	[illegible]
Borg Warner	28	[illegible]
Bristol Myers	[illegible]	[illegible]
BP	[illegible]	[illegible]
Burlington Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Burlington Ntha	[illegible]	[illegible]
Burroughs	50	[illegible]
Campbell Soup	[illegible]	68
Canadian Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Caterpillar	[illegible]	48
Celanese	[illegible]	[illegible]
Central Soya	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chase Manhat	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chem Bank NY	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chrysler	[illegible]	[illegible]
Citicorp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Clark Equip	[illegible]	[illegible]
Coca Cola	55	[illegible]
Colgate	[illegible]	[illegible]
CBS	[illegible]	[illegible]
Columbia Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Combustion Eng	[illegible]	[illegible]
Comwlth Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Power	[illegible]	[illegible]
Continental Grp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Control Data	[illegible]	[illegible]
Corning Glass	[illegible]	[illegible]
CPC Intl	[illegible]	[illegible]
Crane	[illegible]	[illegible]
Crocker Int	[illegible]	[illegible]
Crown Zeller	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dart & Kraft	[illegible]	73
Deere	[illegible]	[illegible]
Delta Air	[illegible]	[illegible]
Detroit Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Disney	[illegible]	64
Dow Chemical	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dresser Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Duke Power	[illegible]	[illegible]
Du Pont	48	[illegible]
Eastern Air	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eastman Kodak	[illegible]	[illegible]
Eaton Corp	47	47
Emhart	[illegible]	[illegible]
Evans P. D.	[illegible]	5
Exxon Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fed Dept Stores	[illegible]	[illegible]
Firestone	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fst Chicago	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Apr 16	Apr 13
Fst Interst Bncp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fst Penn Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ford	[illegible]	[illegible]
GAF Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
GTE Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Dynamics	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Electric	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Foods	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Mills	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Motors	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gen Pub Util NY	8	[illegible]
Gen Tire	[illegible]	[illegible]
Genesco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Georgia Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Getty Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gillette	[illegible]	[illegible]
Goodrich	[illegible]	[illegible]
Goodyear	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gould Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grace	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gt Atltc & Pacific	[illegible]	[illegible]
Greyhound	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grumman Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gulf Oil	79	[illegible]
Gulf & West	[illegible]	[illegible]
Heinz H. J.	34	34
Hercules	[illegible]	[illegible]
Honeywell	[illegible]	[illegible]
IC Inds	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ingersoll	[illegible]	[illegible]
Inland Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
IBM	[illegible]	[illegible]
Int Harvester	[illegible]	[illegible]
INCO	14	14
Int Paper	[illegible]	53
Int Tel Tel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Irving Bank	58	[illegible]
Jewel Co	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jim Walter	[illegible]	[illegible]
Johnson & John	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kaiser Alumin	[illegible]	17
Kerr McGee	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kimberly Clark	[illegible]	[illegible]
K Mart	[illegible]	28
Kroger	[illegible]	[illegible]
L T V Corp	17	17
Litton	66	65
Lockheed	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lucky Stores	[illegible]	18
Manuf Hanover	[illegible]	[illegible]
Manville Cp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mapco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Marine Midland	[illegible]	22
Martin Marietta	[illegible]	[illegible]
McDonnell	[illegible]	49
Mead	[illegible]	[illegible]
Merck	[illegible]	[illegible]
Minnesota Mng	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mobil Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Monsanto	[illegible]	[illegible]
Morgan J. P.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Motorola	116	[illegible]
NCR Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
NL Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nabisco	42	[illegible]
Nat Distillers	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nat Med Ent	[illegible]	[illegible]
Norfolk South	[illegible]	[illegible]
NW Bancorp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Occidental Pet	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ogden	[illegible]	[illegible]
Olin Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Owens-Illinois	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pacific Gas Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pan Am	[illegible]	[illegible]
Penney J. C.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pennzoil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pepsico	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pfizer	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phelps Dodge	[illegible]	[illegible]
Philip Morris	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phillips Petrol	42	[illegible]
Polaroid	27	[illegible]

	Apr 16	Apr 13
PPG Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Procter Gamble	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pub Ser El & Gas	[illegible]	[illegible]
Raytheon	[illegible]	[illegible]
RCA Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Republic Steel	31	31
Reynolds Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]
Reynolds Metal	33	[illegible]
Rockwell Int	[illegible]	[illegible]
Royal Dutch	[illegible]	[illegible]
Safeways	[illegible]	[illegible]
St Regis Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]
SFE Sopac	[illegible]	[illegible]
SCM	[illegible]	[illegible]
Schlumberger	[illegible]	[illegible]
Scott Paper	[illegible]	[illegible]
Seagram	33	[illegible]
Sears Roebuck	[illegible]	[illegible]
Shell Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Shell Trans	[illegible]	37
Signal Co	[illegible]	[illegible]
Singer	[illegible]	26
Smithkline Beck	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sony	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sth Cal Edison	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sperry Corp	[illegible]	37
Std Oil California	[illegible]	38
Std Oil Indiana	[illegible]	[illegible]
Std Oil Ohio	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling Drug	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stevens J. P.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sun Comp	58	58
Teledyne	[illegible]	149
Tenneco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Texaco	40	[illegible]
Texas East Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Texas Inst	[illegible]	[illegible]
Texas Utilities	[illegible]	[illegible]
Textron	[illegible]	30
TWA	[illegible]	[illegible]
Travelers Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
TRW Inc	[illegible]	64
UAL Inc	[illegible]	37
Union Carbide	[illegible]	[illegible]
Union Oil Calif	[illegible]	38
Un Pacific Corp	47	[illegible]
Uniroyal	13	[illegible]
United Brands	[illegible]	[illegible]
US Industries	23	[illegible]
US Steel	[illegible]	30
Utd Technol	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wachovia	[illegible]	48
Warner Comms	[illegible]	[illegible]
Warner Lambert	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wells Fargo	37	[illegible]
Westinghse Elec	[illegible]	[illegible]
Weyerhaeuser	[illegible]	[illegible]
Whirlpool	[illegible]	[illegible]
Woolworth	[illegible]	31
Xerox Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zenith	[illegible]	[illegible]

Canadian Prices

	Apr 16	Apr 13
Abitibi	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alcan Alumin	[illegible]	[illegible]
Algoma Steel	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bell Telephone	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cominco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cons Bathurst	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gulf Oil	18	18
Hawker/Sid Can	15	15
Imasco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Imperial Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Int Pipe	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mass-Ferguson	[illegible]	[illegible]
Royal Trustco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Seagram	[illegible]	43
Steel Co	[illegible]	[illegible]
Thomson N 'A	[illegible]	[illegible]
Walker Hiram	[illegible]	[illegible]
WCT	[illegible]	[illegible]

e Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split t Traded. y Unquoted.

Websters seeks £3m for software work

By Jonathan Clare

Websters Group, the former Websters Publications book distribution business, is asking shareholders for £3.15m net to help develop book and computer software markets.

The home computer software division, started in 1983, made a first-time contribution of £767,000 to group results. This and better profits from book distribution helped increase group profits from £1.5m more than £2m. The improvement would have been even greater but for a substantial loss of £625,000, against £2,000, from the visual communications business which is developing a video learning system known as Felix.

The net cash from the one-for-three rights issue at 84p per share will initially be used to reduce borrowings and improve gearing. No profits forecast has been made for the current year but the company has promised that the total dividend will be at least maintained at last year's 3.1p on the enlarged capital. The 1983 dividend of 3.1p compares with 2.7p for 1982.

The company also said tha full-year results depend on second-half trading and that the seasonal bias was becoming stronger as the group developed further.

Most profits still scome from book distribution, where Websters has a dominant hold on about a quarter of the paperback distribution market. Profits were up from £1.4m to £1.8m.

The bookshops – they include Bounty Books, a bargain book chain, and Books for Students – increased profits from £262,000 to £296,000. Profits from printing and publications also improved, from £155,000 to £228,000.

The shares rose 5p to 112p.

Kalamazoo slips into the red

Kalamazoo, the business system company 51.5 per cent owned by the Kalamazoo Workers' Alliance, faces what it calls "a stringent review of costs" to keep itself on the road back to profits.

The company yesterday announced a half-year loss of £178,000 compared with a £1.3m profit for the same period last year. This disguises a turnround from loss to profit between the first and second quarters, but will not be enough to make the year as a whole "comparable" with 1983's £3.6m profit.

Meanwhile shareholders, including the workers' alliance, are having to suffer a cut in the interim dividend from 0.83p a share to 0.5p.

The company added that it is "currently engaged in a retructuring of the business

Jardine Fleming in £22m venture plan

By Philip Robinson

Jardine Fleming yesteday announced it was raising £22m, mainly from UK financial institutions for its first Japanese venture capital fund.

This is the second Japanese-based fund to emerge from the Jardine Fleming stable in as many weeks, and both are closely linked with Associates of Normura Securities, the giant Japanese stockbroking house.

The present fund, clled JF Japan Venture 1, will take advice on 80 per cent of its investment portfolio from Nomura associate group, Japan Associated Finance Co. (JAFCO).

The latest fund is to raise Yen 7,000m through a minimum subscription of five units valued at Yen 100m (£312,000). The fund will have an life initial of 10 years and will invest in unquoted companies with developed products or services in a strong market position.

Potential investment would be businesses which are likely to go public through either a stock market listing or an over-the-counter quotation in five to seven years.

It is when the investment go public that original investors benefit. The proceeds of the fund's shareholdings in the company is liquidated and divided between unit holders.

Analysis of its first venture capital partnership, which is now fully invested, shows an estimated return of 32 per cent by the end of last December.

The manager of JF Japan Venture 1 will receive a 3 per cent annual management fee and will be entitled to performance fees of 20 per cent of the net income and capital gains realized by the Trust. However only half the performance will be distributed before unit holders have received capital equal to their initial investment.

Rangers must keep their chickens on ice for another summer

New York's annual binge of beer and loathing in the Garden

New York

It is that time of year in New York when ice hockey fans sneak into Madison Square Gardens with plastic chickens and fishheads secreted up their shirts. When marijuana smoke wafts from the Garden stairwells as thick as Los Angeles smog. When businessmen sneak out of dinners at the Waldorf Astoria to sit in their BMWs, tune in the radio and thump the steering wheel in a mime of excitement. It is the time, in other words, when the Rangers meet the Islanders in the National Hockey League play-offs.

The enmity between the two New York clubs is one of the world's outstanding sporting rivalries. The esteem in which the average Stretford Ember hold Manchester City is nothing compared to the hatred that Ranger fans harbour for the Isles. A volley of rotting fish and chickens greets their nemeses at the Garden.

New York loves a winner, but for the hard-nosed hockey lovers in Mamhatten the wrong team keeps winning. The Isles, 12 years old and based on Long Island 35 miles from Times Square, have won the NHL championship, the Stanley Cup, for the last four seasons. Starved of Stanley cup success since 1940, Ranger fans loathe their rivals with a vengeance.

Fishheads dumped

The Rangers, three times Stanley Cup winners, have been Manhattan's team for 58 years, yet for the past three seasons *running the Islanders have invaded their* Madison Square Garden home in the play-offs and taken them to the cleaners.

This year was not much different. Last week at the Nassau Coliseum on Long Island the Islanders *finally* overpowered fearsome Ranger resistance in overtime to win the five-game play-off series 3-2. The city of New York went into familiar mourning. The plastic chickens were wrapped up for another year. The fishheads went out with the trash.

"This is just as serious as Lebanon or Russia," one Ranger fan said. "And I am not joking."

But he and 17,000 others at the Garden did have one fleeting moment of glory last week that will console them through the long, hot, hockey-less summer. At one game all in the series after the two games on Long Island, the Isles came to the city for their first taste of mass Ranger hostility. Imagine the Hampden roar concentrated into the dome of St Paul's. That is the beer-filled Rangers' war cry when the Isles are being beaten. The Rangers romped to a 7-2 victory.

"We're fanatics," a blue seater said joyfully, in the break between the first and second periods. In the Garden, a *blue* seater differs from a red seater as a North Banker differs from an east stand season *ticket holder at Highbury. The* red seats snugly host corporate pin stripes, fetch $500 on the black market and give an *innacurate view of the ice,* including the players' faces distorted in agony as they are crushed against the perspex barrier. *The blue seats, coated in a glutinous* mixture of beer and popcorn, form a ring high up on the arena dome and house the *noisiest, rudest, most namic and probably* most knowledgable fans in American sport.

"They are the worst when it comes to rudeness", said the second highest scorer *in NHL history, Phil Esposito,* a former Ranger player.

"I see no reason for it, except that by the time the game is over most of them are loaded. But they are still incredible fans. If the Rangers win the cup, the city would go absolutely crazy."

Gauntlets thrown

That is one reason why, even in their hour of triumph, the Islanders house a secret frustration. Despite their achievements on the ice, New York city is yawningly indifferent to their success.

It is not the fault of the players, whose cast of characters included a goaltender, Billy Smith, who is so obsessive about the play-offs that he refused to shake hands with opponents and moved into a hotel for two months to avoid the distraction of his wife.

Demis Potvin, a hunk of granite in defence, Bob Mystrom, blond and battle-scarred, and Clark Gillies, a 6ft 3in 200lb forward, all throw down the gloves occasionally – a curious ritual in hockey, sanctioned by the league, in which players stop skating and enjoy a punchup. "With clubs in their hands and razors on their feet, it is better to fight cleanly and get it over with", Esposito explained.

That is te mentality New Yorkers appreciate. Fast, furious and frequently explosive, the Ranger Islander rivalry is a *manifestation* on the ice of Manhattans hectic way of life.

Sue Mott

CYCLING

New boost for city racing

By John Wilcockson

City centre racing caught the nation's attention when it was presented for the first time on Channel 4 television last August. Yesterday the *sport* was *given* a further boost with the announcement of five similar races. Four of them will constitute a Winning magazine grand prix series to be held in the Anglia Television area next month. The other is a race to be sponsored *by Kellogg's in Dublin during* August.

A field of 60 riders from Britain, Ireland, Belgium, France and The Netherlands, is to contest the Anglia series, which is being sponsored by Winning, *an all-colour monthly* cycling magazine that is to be launched in early May. The races will take place in Milton Keynes (at 7.00pm, May 17), and Norwich (7.30pm, May 19). They are to be of one-hour duration on circuits of *between a half and threequarters of* a mile.

Roche: going home

The Dublin race takes place on August 14, with the assured participation of the two Irish cycling stars, Sean Kelly and Stephen Roche, who will be cometing for the *first time in a professional race in* their own country.

IN BRIEF

The wind of no change

Chris Lloyd won the Hilton Head Island women's tennis tournament in South Carolina for the seventh time on Monday (Reuter report). The top seed beat the unseeded West German, Claudia Kohde, 6-2, 6-3 in a final postponed on Sunday because of heavy rain. An unpredictable, swirling wind made playing difficult.

● Pam Shriver, the world No 3, has entered for the Edgbaston Cup, the pre-Wimbledon international grass court tournament.

● The unseeded Catherine Tanvier, of France, overcame nervousness to defeat the ninth-seeded Virginia *Ruzici of Romania, yesterday in the* first round of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) championships, at Amelia Island, Florida.

Miss Tanvier, who suffers from a nervous complaint that makes breathing difficult, won the first set on a tie-break and did the same in the third to win, 7-6, 1-6, 7-6.

FIRST ROUND (US unless stated): C Tanvier (Fr) bt V Ruzici (Rom) 7-6, 1-6, 7-5; M Jausovec (Yug) bt P Delhees (Switz) 6-2, 6-0; C Suire (Fr) bt E Sayers (Aust) 6-2, 6-2; C Lindqvist (Swe) bt Y Vermaak (SA) 6-2, 2-6, 7-6; I Budarova (Cz) bt C Jexell (Swe) 6-4, 6-3; S Goles (Yug) bt S Collins 4-6, 6-2, 6-0; P Medrado (Br) bt L Bonder 6-4, 6-2; M Maleeva (Bul) bt S Amiach (Fr) 7-5, 6-1; B Herr bt C Benjamin 6-3, 7-6; K Rinaldi bt R Fairbank (SA) 2-6, 6-2, 6-4; T Phelps bt A Smith 6-0, 6-0; I Madruga-Osses (Arg) bt K Sands 6-4, 6-4; K Schaefer bt L Thompson 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

SWIMMING: Wigan Wasps, Britain's most successful swimming club, are to be sponsored by a local bakery firm for the next four years (Athole Still writes). Their coach, Keith Bewley said the deal with *Greenhalgh's, a firm based in* Bolton with outlets in the Wigan area, is worth £20,000.

BOWLS: George Souza (Hongkong) and David Bryant, respectively winner and runner-up last year, head the field for the Gateway Masters tournament at Worthing from June 1 to 3 (Gordon Allan writes). The other competitive are John Bell (England), Willie Wood (Scotland), Peter Belliss (New Zealand), Darby Ross (Australia), *Francisco Souza (United States)* and Dan Milligan (Canada).

CRICKET: LANCASHIRE ELEVATION, MIDDLESEX PROMOTION

Abrahams chosen to captain Lancashire

John Abrahams took over as captain of Lancashire yesterday, replacing Clive Lloyd, who will be leading the West Indies during their *tour of England this season.* Abrahams was vice captain last year and captained the team for part of the season *when Lloyd was absent.*

The South African-born batsman has been regarded for some time as Lloyd's natural successor. Jack Bond, the Lancashire manager said yesterday, "John did a really good job last year when he stood in for Clive. When we knew definitely that Clive would be unavailable because of the West Indies tour it was a natural decision to make John captain.

Abrahams, the son of a former Lancashire league professional, took ten years to earn his county cap and once was on the point of leaving. Jack Simmons, the veteran all-rounder, *has been made vice-captain.*

Abrahams: natural successor

Zaheer blamed for 'debacle'

Karachi (Reuter) – Pakistan's displays in the recent inaugural *Asian Cup* were described as a debacle in an editorial in the influential newspaper *Dawn* yesterday.

It said that indifferent and irresponsible batting, erratic and expensive bowling, untidy fielding "combined with lack of inspiring leadership, paved the way for the debacle".

"It is not so *much the defeat as* the failure of our cricketers to make a serious effort that is regrettable." Pakistan lost to both Sri Lanka and India in the three-nation tournament staged in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

● *Bob Taylor,* Derek Randall and David Gower yesterday received special awards of £450 each from *Cornhill, the sponsors of England's* tests, for their performances on the recent tour of New Zealand and Pakistan. It was also announced that England's players will receive no increase in their £1,500 Test fee this season. However, Cornhill's contribution to the TCCB will rise by £25,000, to £625,000.

Dangling a carrot to boost finances and membership

Middlesex are offering free *membership and a £500 holiday* in Tenerife in a recriting drive designed to swell their long term finances and membership. The scheme has been introduced by Tim Lamb, the new secretary who is alarmed at the drop in membership from 9,000 to 7,500 over the past three years.

Any member who intoduces new business which trebles the £32.50 yearly subscription will receive a total refund or discount, a 50 per cent cut for *doubling the subscription* and 20 per cent cut for equalling it. The lucky member who brings in the most cash will get the free holiday.

Lamb, a former Middlesex and Northamtonshire fast bowler, said "It is not a bad carrot to dangle, we received £125,000 from membership revenue last year and that was *more than the* shareout from the Test and County Cricket Board.

"It is our biggest source of income and unfortunately some countries have treated members as second class citizens. They should be treated like the important people they are because their money is vital to the survival of any county."

Mike Gatting, captain of the Benson and Hedges cup holders and county championship runnes-up, is left with the pleasant problem of choosing from three of his four fast bowlers during May because Wayne Daniel missed selection on this summer's West Indies tour

Gatting said "We all thought that Wayne had a very good chance of making the West Indies side. It is nice for me as captain but not so nice for the bowler who is left out. But if Norman Cowans is wanted by England for the Tests, then the position will resolve itself."

Gatting is hoping for a dry summer so that his John Emburey and *Phil Edmonds,* his world-class spinners, can go to work. He added "It was a case of us losing the title to Essex last year rather than them winning it, but, of course, they had to make sure that they did not slip up along the way.

"We were washed *out* at Lords during May and if we get a dry summer, we could win it this time. Embruey and Edmonds are a great force while Essex only really have David Acfield in the spin department.

"I have seen Nottinghamshie quoted at 33-1 for the championship by one bookmaker and I just can't believe it. Clive Rice is back bowling again and they will be one of our closest rivals."

Emburey has been troubled by bruised ribs but will be fit to start the season next week.

COUNTY PROSPECTS

Middlesex hold most of the trump cards

By Richard Streeton

When Middlesex are at full strength they remain, on paper, the team least likely to be beaten in any of the four competitions. Test calls and injuries caused them to falter in the home stretch last season but there is no doubt that they will be contenders *again* for the championship and prominent performers in the one-day events.

All the necessary trumps are held, particularly in the attack. For the improving Cowans, Williams and Hughes, the best days still lie ahead and together with Daniel, if he mises the West Indies tour, they provide rare muzzle velocity for a county team. *Edmonds and Emburey* have no rivals as the best spinning combination in the country.

Gatting's emergence as a significant captain was an important factor for the county, who also *found* a capable vice-captain in Emburey. Gattin and Roland Butcher, until he was injured, scored their runs with an aggression and panache that invariably kept their side the initiative.

Butcher is confident here is no legacy from the fearful blow on the head he suffered in mid-July and he *made many runs on a winter club* tour to India. Barlow, who has a benefit this yar, not only returned to his best form in 1983 but also filled Brearley's place as an opener. With Barlow and Slack, followed by Radley's mid-order Batsmen should not lack a foundation.

Past and present Oxford University Blues feature again in the *Middlesex reserves. Ellis is available* regularly and Miller, the left-hander, who did so well at the end of last summer and Carr, an off-spinner, will play after term. Merry has left but Graham Rose, a 6ft 4in medium-fast bowler from Tottenham, and *Jamie Sykes, an off-spinner* from Shoreditch, are among promising youngsters signed.

1983 record: County championship: 2nd NatWest Bank trophy: Lost in semi-final. Benson and Hedges Cup: Winners. John Player League: 8th.

Playing staff: M. W. Gatting (capt), G. D. Barlow, K. R. Brown, R. O. Butcher, J. D. Carr, C. R. Cook, N. G. Cowans, W. W. Daniel, P. R. Downton, P. H. Edmonds, R. G. P. Ellis, J. E. Emburey, A. Frazer, S. P. Hughes, K. D. James, C. P. Metson, A. J. T. Miller, C. T. Radley, G. Rose, W. N. Slack, J. F. Sykes, F. F. Sykes, K. P. Tomlins, and N. F. Williams.

● *Tommorrow: Northamptonshire*

More cricket, page 21



ATHLETICS

Question of distance for Miss Decker

Los Angeles (AFP) – Mary Decker, aged 25, who won two gold medals as the World Championships in Helsinki last year has still to make up her mind about running both distances at the Olympic Games – the 1,500 metres and 3,000 metres.

She will begin her preparation with a 3,000 metres run here on May 13, just a month before the United States *Olypic* trials – on the Univeristy of California at Los Angeles' new track at Drake Stadium.

Before that she will run a 5,000 metres race at Eugene, Oregon, which she considers as a warm-up after a break of several months because of a torn muscle in her right calf.

***Miss* Decker, who had to come through years of adversity caused by injuries to triumph over the Soviet Union athletes in both *the* 1,500 metres and 3,000 metres at Helsinki, treated the latest injury cautiously and started training again only in *February.* Her last race was a mile, which she won, in London last September.**

"I'm *awfully cautious* in this Olympic year," she said as she was passing through Los Angeles. To avoid risks she missed the United States indoor circuit. Her main rival should be Zola Budd, should she be allowed to compete too for Britain in *the Olympic Games.*

"Now, I feel great, and I've been in constant progress for the last two months," she said. "*My main* concern now is not to get injured at a crucial time of my preparation."

She will *run* in a 1500 metres event in Eugene on June 4, just nine days before the trials, *but* had still not made up her *mind* about doubling up. "At first, I have to make the *team in the two events* if I want to double," she said.

She will base her decision on how she performs at the trials. "It'll be a test for me because they have the same schedule as the Olympics have. *If I feel confident* enough to double, I'll do it. If not, I'll have to choose between the two. Then, it will depend on my training. If I can do more speed training



Mary Decker: confident and determined

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

1983/84 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Insurance Bonds and Funds

[illegible]

FOOTBALL: FOCUS ON FUTURE AT LILLESHALL AND MAINE ROAD

Robson's school 'to rediscover Bobby Charlton'

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The rich talent that once paved the backstreets of England is about to be nurtured in the open fields of Shropshire. The 25 most promising 14-year-olds in the country have been selected and will assemble at the Football Association National School, sponsored by General Motors, when term begins in early September.

The central theme of their education will be technique, an art once practised on every available peice of waste ground and now all but forgotten. Bobby Robson, England's manager, who founded the adventurous scheme, emphasized yesterday that "we must lay the foundations to rediscover the likes of Bobby Charlton".

He has long been aware that youngsters, instead of concentrating on skills, are being ushered too hastily towards the stresses of competition. "Some of our best youths are playing six times a week," he said. "They will suffer physically, their enthusiasm is sure to go, and they will be burnt out before their time".

"There are lots of matches at school level but not enough coaching and not enough practice. And you must practise. After all, if I play the piano once a week and you play it once a day, the chances are that after two years you will be the better pianist."

The boys will live for the next two years at Lilleshall, where they will be under the guidance of Dave Sexton, the manager of the national youth and under-21 teams. Throughout their stay at the so-called "school of excellence" they will attend the nearby Idsall Comprehensive to pursue their academic careers.

Robson is disappointed by the criticism the idea has received in some quarters, particularly inside the ESFA, although all the headmasters and parents involved have given it their full support. "It has never been tried before," he said, "but let's have a bit of faith in it, let's give it a go".

More than half of the chosen few are affiliated to Canon League clubs but Robson would not be drawn on how many he expected would become professionals. "All we are doing is giving these 25 a better chance to succeed. If we dig up a few gems, then it will all have been worthwhile."

Robson may be excited about the prospects of the juniors but he has dark fears about the seniors and their fitness. At the end of a long season, his representatives, most of whom are involved in Europe, are about to play six internationals in two months. He already knows he has lost one experienced member, Butcher.

After the fixtures against Wales, Scotland and the Soviet Union, he will take a squad of 19 to South America. It has been confirmed that England will face Brazil, in a match to be televised live on ITV, on June 10, Uruguay on June 13, and Chile on either June 16 or 17.

In defence of wingers: Gayle and Chamberlain put their case

National prayer for wingers answered

By Clive White

Bobby Robson, the England manager, has responded swiftly to the wide appeal for wingers to lift our international game by choosing not one, but two, Chamberlain and Gayle, against Italy at Maine Road, tonight, in the first leg of the Europen under-21 championships semi-final.

The decision, though, may have been thrust upn him by a staggering number of eight withdrawals from the team which performed with such discipline in France in the quarter-finals last month, when an aggregate win of 7-1 was achieved. A heavy League programme this week is to blame for much of the disruption, but it gives an opportunity to five new players, one of whom is Gayle, the dark, fleet-footed Birmingham City winger, once with Liverpool.

It is a wonderful chance for both Gayle and Chamberlain to state not only their case, but also that of wingers in general in England. Robson said recently after omitting wingers in the senior side against Northern Ireland, that England does not possess players of outstanding merit in that position, otherwise he would pick them.

Chamberlain, particularly, is good enough to change his opinion if the confidence is there. At his best, he is phenomenally quick, skilful, and can cross an exacting ball with the minimum of back-lift. It will be helpful to him to start a match for a change.

The other four new caps are: Hucker (Queen's Park Rangers), Stewart Robson (Arsenal), Brock (Oxford United) and D'Avray (Ipswich Town).

D'Avray's selection is interesting not least because of its topicality. He is South African-born, like Zola Budd, the young female athlete at the centre of a political storm over her wish to run for Britain, but unlike her it took him six years to get his British passport. Having finally got it, he must seize this opportunity to gain him his "passport" to international competition.

England are desperate for forwards of real quality, and D'Avray's ability is not so far behind that of the leading contenders. Hateley, of Portsmouth, hogged five of the goals in the last round, and looked like a lad who could go on to bigger things, but he has had to withdraw because of injury. Only Watson, Caton, the captain, and Sterland remain from the last team.

Dave Sexton, the under-21 manager, is always philosophical about such matters. "There is no point in crying about it. We have to make the best of the situation," he said. "It does give other players the chance of making the grade and often something good comes out of this."

It is ironic that while everyone whines about how a full England team has been irreparably damaged by injury and club commitment, the under-21 team plods on towards glory. They seem less affected by changes. Perhaps the reason is that they are so mature at this level, and tend to look more like a B team, hardly inferior in quality to the seniors because they are not weighed down by the heavy pressure of expectancy.

ENGLAND UNDER-21: Hucker (QPR), Sterland (Sheffield Wednesday), Pickering (Sunderland), Bracewell (Sunderland), Watson (Norwich), Caton (Arsenal, capt), Chamberlain (Stoke), Gayle (Birmingham), D'Avray (Ipswich), Robson (Arsenal), Brock (Oxford United). Substitutes: Davis (Arsenal), Neill (QPR), Pearson (Sheffield Wednesday), Barnes (West Bromwich Albion), Seaman (Peterborough).

● Derrick Parker of Oldham Athletic has been banned from the ground for seven days and fined a week's wages after an angry outburst when he was substituted at Cardiff City on Saturday.

Germans back on even keel

Frankfurt, (Reuter) – The West German football team aim to put their squabbles behind them when they meet France in a friendly at Strasbourg today. Jupp Derwall, the national coach, said after talks with his players, who trained here before leaving for Strasbourg, that he has given up attempts to introduce zonal marking to his defence.

"The players will be given an opponent to mark," he said. "That was what made us strong and basically I knew we would have to go back to it sooner or later."

Team sources said Derwall had appealed to the squad to end their bickering and show the unity and spirit which helped them to win the World Cup twice and the European Championship three times.

Today's match will be West Germany's last international before they begin the defence of their European title in France in June. Before Derwall's "clear the air" meeting, several players were believed not to be speaking to each other.

Derwall, heavily criticized in the West German media for the team's recent lack of enterprise, has also been the target for criticism by former internationals.

The trainer warned his players that Schumacher could be the target of abuse from French fans because of an incident during the 1982 World Cup semi-final when the goalkeeper badly injured French forward Patrick Battiston. Derwall said the team must ignore any hostility and support Schumacher "Whoever is not ready to put up with this should go home now," he said.

Injuries leave Derwall without several key players. The casualties include Stielike and Schuster, from Spanish Clubs Real Madrid and Barcelona, and forwards Waas, Milewski and Allofs.

France, the hosts for the European Championship finals in June, will be without several key players, including Michel Platini, the Footballer of the Year. He was ruled out because of commitments to his Italian club, Juventus, who are unlikely to release him before the finals begin in France on June 12.

The French manager Michel Hidalgo said yesterday that midfield players Giresse and Tigana and forward Lacombe are all injured, while Bossis, the captain, is due to play less than 24 hours later for Nantes at Metz in a vital league match.

Bossis said he was ready to play in both matches, but he might come off at half-time against West Germany, which could give Jean-Francois Domergue, of Toulouse, his international debut.

Hidalgo has brought Vercruysse of Lens and forward Anziani, who scored five goals for Sochaux against Toulon at the weekend, into the squad. "We have to play a difficult match with a midfield totally changed because we're missing Platini, Giresse and Tigana who represent a constant factor in the team" Hidalgo said.



Derwall: criticized

Football results from Monday

THIRD DIVISION: Bolton Wanders 2, Plymouth Argyle 1, Southend United 2, Bradford City 1.
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Northwich Victoria 1, Nuneaton 1; Worcester 3, Maidstone 0. Bob Lord Trophy: Final (first leg): Scarborough 2, Barnet 0.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Hyde 2, Oswestry 0; Marine 0, Horwich 1.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Dudley 1, Merthyr Tydfil 0. Southern division: Hounslow 2, Dover 2.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Derby 2, Sheffield United 2; Liverpool 0, Newcastle 1.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Birmingham 1, Bristol Rovers 1; Ipswich 2, Millwall 0; Reading 0, Chelsea 5; Watford 2, Leicester 1.

TABLE TENNIS: EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Douglas despairs as England go down like lambs

From a Special Correspondent, Moscow

England's darkest hour has cast a shadow over the future of Desmond Douglas, the national champion.

That was the coda to yesterday's first ever defeat to Italy, 5-3, which had ensured that relegation to category two for the first time would be followed by the disgrace of a last-place finish.

Douglas, who plans to curtail his European League appearances next season, is now unlikely to play much, if at all, in the team event of the next European Championships.

"I feel I've done enough," the Birmingham left-hander said. "I can't keep doing it on my own. At the most I would only want to play crucial matches in category two to help get the team up."

His exasperation is understandable. Once again, with 13 wins out of 17, he was one of the leading players in the team event. Once again he was pitifully undersupported. This time, though, the rickety edifice of the England team has come crashing down.

The cracks were apparent, as Douglas himself says, even when England were achieving their remarkable fourth place in the Tokyo world championships a year ago. Douglas's supporting cast of ageing veterans and combination bats proved effective on that occasion. But the rule changes on serves and bat rubbers have reduced the subsequent effectiveness of Carl Prean. Now, quite suddenly, Prean (aged 16), Alan Cooke (17) and Kenny Jackson (22) look like lambs asked to do the job of a lion.

These three, without Douglas who was resting for his assault upon the singles title, took on the Italians. Although Prean encouragingly won two (doubling his total of wins in one go) and Jackson scored a first European championship win, it was still a dreadful embarrassment. Giovanni Bisi, a law student from Rimini, beat the lot of them.

There was distress, too, for the European Champion, Bettine Vriesekoop. She was service faulted five times by the Swedish umpire Gerd Strid, for not throwing the ball up. When she did it again, at 9-14 down in the final game against Gabriella Szabo of Hungary, she shook hands, walked off, and quit.

"You must be somebody very important," she told Strid, "Just a person who applies the rules." Strid replied.

Miss Vriesekoop lost the doubles too and the Dutch lost the third-place play-off 3.0.



Desmond Douglas: "I feel I've done enough"

Results from Moscow

MEN: 3rd place: Sweden bt Czechoslovakia 5-3. 5th place: Yugoslavia bt Soviet Union 5-3; 7th place: Hungary bt Norway 5-0; 9th place: West Germany bt Bulgaria 5-4; 11th place: Italy bt England 5-3; 13th place: Romania bt Austria 5-1. 17th place: Netherlands bt Finland 5-1; 15th place: Denmark bt Scotland 5-4; 19th place: Switzerland bt Belgium 5-2; 21st place: Spain bt Luxembourg 5-2; 23rd place: Wales bt Portugal 5-1

Semi-final round: Austria bt Finland 5-3; Romania bt the Netherlands 5-1; Scotland bt Switzerland 5-3; Denmark bt Belgium 5-2; Luxembourg bt Wales 5-3

WOMEN: Final: USSR bt Yugoslavia 3-0; 3rd place: Hungary bt the Netherlands 3-0; 5th place: Sweden bt England 3-0; 7th place: Czechoslovakia bt Romania 3-0. 9th place: Finland bt West Hermany 3-0; 11th place: Poland bt Denmark 3-1; 13th place: France bt Bulgaria 3-1, 15th place: Austria bt Norway 3-0; 17th place: Luxembourg bt Belgium 3-2; 19th place: Italy bt Spain 3-0; 21st place: Scotland bt Ireland 3-2; 23rd place: Wales bt Portugal 3-1.

CREDITORS OF CHARLTON Athletic Football Club are soon to receive a substantial pay-out from the newly-formed Charlton 84, a creditors' meeting was told in London yesterday.

The Official Receiver Mr John Sell said that preferential creditors, including the Inland Revenue, would be paid in full. Other claims would be dealt with on the basis of a dividend of 60p in the pound.

The payments were expected to be made in the middle of next month.

Fixture problem looms for UEFA Cup clubs

Tottenham Hotspur and Nottingham Forest will have a fixture problem if they win through to face each other in the UEFA Cup final. Tottenham are due to travel to Southampton on May 7, two days before the first leg of the final. Forest cannot even think about a date for their rearranged League meeting with Manchester United because of both clubs' European commitments.

England's manager, Bobby Robson, has ruled out the club' one free week – from April 30 – because of clashes with the British chapionship game against Wales at Wrexham.

"If we allow them to play then, my international plans would be decimated. If we can't get players in international week, we're never going to get them.

"They have my sympathy. When I was with Ipswich I remember having four games, including European and FA Cup semi-finals, plus a trip, in just seven days."

Tottenham had Southampton's approval to switch their League game to May 1, but the League overruled them.

Tottenham's assistant secretary, Peter Barnes, said: "We understand England's position and are now casting around to try to find a new date. With Southampton out of the FA Cup, a few more possibilities have opened up, but they have their own problems, having fallen behind because of the Cup run."

● ZURICH: The General Secretary of UEFA has blamed British supporters for spreading violence to Europe and warned that English teams might have to be excluded from European competitions.

In the official UEFA bulletin, Hans Bangerter, writes: "The British have exported not only their own fascinating game of soccer during the last century, but also the terrifying phenomenon of soccer hooliganism. There is no doubt the root of the evil is in the soil on the British side of the Channel".

He criticizes Britain for failing to ban alcohol sales on public transport, which he said was a major cause of uncontrollable behaviour.

England's match in Brazil will be televised live

England's match against Brazil in South America this summer will be shown live on television in England. The game in Rio on June 10, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Brazilian FA, is due to go out on ITV at 9pm, British time.

The other two games on the summer tour – against Uruguay in Montevideo on June 13 (11 pm) and Chile in Santiago on June 16 (10 pm), will also be televised. But the final details have yet to be worked out and it is not known whether either game will be shown live, especially as they clash with the opening matches in the European Championship in France.

The English FA have also asked Chile if it is possible to move that international to Sunday, June 17 to ease Bobby Robson's side's hectic programme.

The FA have announced that England will play East Germany in a friendly at Wembley on September 12 next season.

Southend profit

Southend United made a profit of £23,127 last year despite a loss of £67,362 carried over from the previous season.

French club negotiate terms for Wallace

Ian Wallace of Nottingham Forest, is attracting interest from the French first fivision side, Brest. Informal talks have taken place between the two clubs over Wallace, who has not been able to find a regular place this season despite finishing top scorer last term.

Nottingham Forest's manager, Brian Clough, said: "They have not seen Wallace play, and have asked us when he will next be in action so they can look at him." Wallace cost Forest over £1m when he joined them from Coventry in the summer of 1980.

Bournemouth have been invited to play three matches in Pakistan at the end of the season. The Bournemouth managing director, Brian Tiler, said yesterday: "We are interested and have asked for further details. In addition to playing three matches in a week in May the club will also receive £5,000."

Meanwhile the supporters have elected to keep the name AFC Bournemouth and not revert to Bournemouth and Boscome Athletic.

West Bromwich Albion's secretary, Tony Rance, has left the club. He confirmed his resignation last night after clearing out his desk at the Hawthorns.

"I have resigned for personal reasons which I do not want to elaborate on," he said.

"The situation has been building up for some time. It has reached a stage where I was not enjoying the job any more."

Rance joined Albion five years ago from Bristol City.

Brighton's manager, Chris Cattlin has confirmed that right back Chris Ramsey had been given a free transfer. Birmingham born Ramsey, aged 21, who joined Brighton on a free transfer from Bristol City, made 29 appearances last season, including the first FA Cup Final match with Manchester United. This term he has played in only five senior matches and will be the sixth member of the Wembley side to leave the club.

Reading and Bristol City have been charged by the Football Association with a breach of crowd control regulations. The charge arises from a league match at Elm Park on April 7 when missiles were thrown and some spectators encroached on to the pitch.

The captain fights for team place

Bob Hazell, a defender, is out of Leicester City's match with Liverpool, the first division leaders, at Filbert Street, tonight. He limped off with a recurrence of a hamstring injury in Saturday's win over Aston Villa.

Kevin Macdonald, captain, has made a good recovery from the twisted knee which forced him to miss Saturday's game. He is contending for a place with Steve Lynex, winger, who has completed a one match suspension.

Despite Saturday's shock defeat at Stoke, Joe Fagan, the Liverpool manager, keeps faith with an unchanged side from today's visit to Leicester.

Peter Withe, the Aston Villa forward, returns after a two-match suspension for the first division game at Tottenham today. He comes back to boost a weakened attack with Gary Shaw and Paul Rideout still on the injury list.

Colin Gibson, who has been left out for the last two games after earlier going down with flu, will also return to the side in place of Eamonn Deacy.

Keith Burkinshaw, the Tottenham manager, names an unchanged team for the second successive game at home to Aston Villa today.

GOLF

Relief for Ray after clear win

By John Hennessey

David Ray, a tall, lissom former England amateur international from Long Ashton, comprehensively won the PGA under-25 championship at Sunningdale yesterday with rounds of 72 (2 over par) and 71 over the Old course. More important perhaps, in these hard commercial times, he won a bundle of goodies that will relieve him of all financial worries this season, since the sponsorship of Lowndes Lambert, provide him with a prize of £600, expenses for the season of £8,000, and the use of a car, together with £750 expenses. Ray beat Stephen Meade (Kirby Muxloe) by 5 strokes and David Leat (Macclesfield) by 7.

Ray is clearly a man of potential, in view of his amateur background, but he arrived at Sunningdale without a putter, his own having been stolen during the Tunisian Open last week, so in the circumstances a severe attack of three-putting was only to be expected. And in those circumstances a first round score of 72 was something of a surprise, for on five greens he predictably had to wield the wretched implement three times.

Meade was only one shot behind in the morning, but that grew immediately to 3 in the afternoon when Ray, from a towering drive, hit a six iron to four feet for an eagle at the first (494 yards).

Meade clawed his way back to 1 behind (2 overall) by the 12th, but the short 13th inflicted a last crippling handicap. He chipped deftly to 3 feet but missed the par putt. Immediately behind him Ray drew a 7 iron from the middle tee to 10 feet and holed out with a putter which had suffered such a transformation that it was this club that kept his score together as his long game developed the occasional kink.

SCORES: 143: D Ray (Long Ashton) 72, 71. 148: S Meade (Kirby Muxloe) 73, 75. 150: D Leat (Macclesfield) 75, 75. 153: B Lewis (Panshanger) 76, 77, M Grieve (Tavistock) 78, 75. 154: G Brown (Ganton) 80, 74; J Brennand (Kendal) 78, 76; B Smith (Goodwood) 76, 78; L Fickling (Enfield) 78, 76; L Turner (unattached) 78, 76; N Riley (East Devon) 75, 79. 156: G Broadbent (Bloxwich) 76, 80. 158: T O'Nion (Fiorenello) 78, 80. 159: A Rodwell (Pleasington) 78, 81. 161: G Illingworth (unattached) 76, 77; R Hunter (Malden) 85, 77.

CRICKET

Sebastien and John lead the run chase

Castries, St Lucia (Reuter) – Lockhart Sebastien and Lance John gave the Windward Islands a solid start in their chase for the 370 runs they required to beat the Australians on the final day of the four-day game here yesterday. The pair scored 56 and 35 respectively in an unbroken opening stand of 98 before lunch.

Sebastien, dismissed cheaply in the first innings, completed his 50 in 72 minutes, including nine fours, before the off-spin of Greg Matthews slowed him down. He then survived a confident appeal for a bat and pad catch just before the interval.

John, who made a century in the first innings was in a subdued mood and hit only two bounderies.

The Australians declared their second innings 15 minutes into the morning session, after adding 27 without loss to their overnight score of 317 for six. Allan Border had completed his seventh first class 50 of the tour and Roger Woolley had reached 52 not out.

The Australians, only 25 runs ahead on the first innings, had started their second innings precariously, losing Smith and Ritchie with only 38 runs on the board.

Directly after lunch, Hughes mistimed a pull at a bumper from Desmond Collymore, the left-arm bowler, and was caught at square-leg for 10.

The visitors' worries, however, were soothed by a sparkling fourth wicket partnership of 99 between Dean Jones and David Hookes, Jones making 95 and Hookes finishing with 74.

Jones, who had opened the innings yesterday because Matthews was ill, batted for 193 minutes and hit 12 fours and two sixes. In one over, he took 25 runs off Collymore, including three fours and two sixes.

AUSTRALIANS: 382 (S B Smith 127, G J R Matthews 54) and 344 for six declared (D M Jones 95, D W Hookes 74, A R Border 54 not out, R D Woolley 52 not out).

WINDWARD ISLANDS: First innings, 337 (L D John 114, L A Lewis 61).

Second innings

L C Sebastien not out	56
L D John not out	35
Extras (b 4, lb 1, nb 2)	7
Total (no wkt)	98

BOWLING. Rackemann 3-0-14-0, Maguire 7-1-40-0, Matthews 8-0-35-0, Alderman 4-1-4-0

MOTOR RALLYING

Hazards on the Safari

Nairobi, (Reuter) – Anyone foolhardy enough to get behind a steering wheel and thrash a car through 5,000 kilometres (3,000 miles) of sun-scorched semi-desert, boulder-strewn mountain trails and torrential rain in high-altitude tropical forests could be the winner of the Kenyan Safari rally next week.

The Safari rally, which starts tomorrow demands that cars and their crews perform to their limits at altitudes ranging from sea-level to 3,000 metres (9,000ft) and in conditions varying from mile-wide dustbowls to tracts of road washed away by rain and pitted with mudholes.

Physical and climatic conditions are not the only hazards confronting the 82 crews. Wildlife on remote bush roads is a constant and unpredictable menace as last year's winner, Ari Vatanen of Finland, can testify.

Although he recovered to win the rally, Vatanen collided with a zebra on the ninth stage of the second leg and was all but forced out. Stone-throwing tribesmen in the remoter areas are also a perennial problem.

The course for 1984 roughly follows the pattern of recent years. Covering a total distance of 5,258 kilometres (3,286 miles), the rally is divided into three legs.

The 1,727-kilomotre (1,080-mile) first leg takes the field on a comparative easy run down to the Indian Ocean Port of Mombasa and back to the capital, Nairobi.

The second leg covers 1,348 kilometres (843 miles) in a loop around Mount Kenya through high-altitude tea plantations and dense forest. The toughest part comes last with the 2,182-kilometre (1,363-mile) third leg, which zigzags west to the shores of Lake Victoria before doubling back to Nairobi via the Cherengani Hills.

Moorcroft aims to banish his nagging doubt, in Olympic year

Running clear of the shadows

Dave Moorcroft is running on borrowed time and knows that the Los Angeles are his last realistic chance of winning an Olympic title. But the 5,000 metres world record holder from Coventry is not prepared to predict that he will return this summer with a gold medal.

"That has never been my style," said the 31-year-old former teacher. "there are always so many imponderables and Olmpic medals are always the hardest to win. Now I've got to look at every season as being extremely important and you can't get more important than the Olympic Games. There is no way I can look four years ahead and plan for that, so this now the most important thing in running terms I've ever done. In some ways breaking the world record in 1982 was good and gave me the confidence to realise how fast I can go but in other ways it is a problem.

"There is more pressure on me and bearing in mind the problems I've had since then with injury and illness there is still a doubt in the back of my mind whether I can get back to full fitness again."

He missed most of last season after being struck by a hepatitis virus and conceded that some people may consider his athletics career a failure if he returns empty handed from the Olympics.

"I've never thought of myself as a failure and still believe the ultimate challenge is racing against other athletes and not the clock, and that the ultimate test is still the Olympics. Some people have inferred that I haven't done as well as I should at major championships but in six attempts I've won medals at four, as well as winning a Europa Cup semi-final and final, so I think I've done reasonably well."

Moorcroft's two major disappointments came in the Moscow Olympics where he was hit by a stomach upset, and went out of the 5,000 metres in the semi-finals and the 1982 European Championships in Athens, where he was favourite after his early season world record run, but then only took third place.

"I accept in Athens the medal I won wasn't the one I was hoping to get and that Moscow went very badly," he added.

Now he is clear of injury and illness and has already been preselected for Los Angeles, after achieving a qualifying time in New Zealand in February. "I'm not really thinking about any rivals at the moment. I'm far more concerned about getting myself to the Games. I know full well that there will be six runners capable of winning the Olympic 5000 metres but some I fear now may have already written themselves off, while someone unknown may be running like a train.

"A lot will depend on the first round but having run at the Colliseum in October at least I know what to expect. "It will be hot and the atmosphere won't be very good but it's the same for everyone."

Now Moorcroft wants to steer clear of injury right through to the start of the Games in August and said: "I'm relatively happy at the moment but I'll be much happier if I can maintain my progress up to the first race.

Back again

Martina Navratilova, the world's No. 1 woman tennis player, will be seeking her fourth LTA Eastbourne title in June. The pre-Wimbledon event has prize-money of £120,000, despite the absence of a sponsor. Among Navratilova's challengers will be Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia, and Britain's No. 1, Jo Durie.

ATHLETICS

Miss Budd not on IOC's April agenda

Lausanne (Reuter) :– The eligibility commission of the International Olympic Committee will not discuss the case of the South African-born Zola Budd at their meeting here on April 27. The IOC secretariat said she would not be on the agenda "since we have not received any requests in this respect."

Miss Budd has been granted British citizenship and hopes to run for Britain in the Los Angeles Olympics.

The usual three-year waiting period for such participation after a change of nationality can be waived only if the national Olympic committees and international federations concerned agree. The IOC's executive board, who next meet from May 28 to 30, must also give approval.

Miss Budd, aged 17, is the world's fastest woman over 5,000 metres. She cannot compete for South Africa in Los Angeles because the republic are barred

TENNIS

HILTON HEAD ISLAND (South Carolina): Women's tournament final: C Lloyd bt C Kohde-Kilsch (WG) 6-2,6-3. Doubles final: Kohde-Kilsch and H Mandlikova (Cz) bt A Hobbs (GB) and S Walsh 7-5, 6-2.

IN BRIEF

Fierce contests in Olympic trials at Palma

A perfect sailing breeze, force 3-4, greeted the British Olympic trialists in Palma Bay. In the Star class, competition was fierce, with Gorestigui (Spain) as front runner. Ian Wolward led at the windward mark in a veering wind and subsequently lost first place on the off-the-wind legs. He recovered the lead from Wredda (W Germany) on the second triangle but lost it again on the fial run, finishing third.

In the Finn class, Roby Bridge turned the tables on Michael McIntyre and won the first race. McIntyre, who pressed Bridge hard, finished third to Thomas Schmidt (W Germany).

STARS: 1, P Wredde (WG), 2, A Hagen (WG), 3, I Wolward (GB). Other British placings: 8 J Boyce, 11, D Howlett. (Subject to protest). FINNS: 1, R Bridge, 2, T Schmidt (WG), 3, M McIntyre.

Hongkong: Nirvana was first across the line in the main event of the China Sea Race. Close behind was Condor, (Britain), skippered by Robert Bell. Nirvana's time was 21hr 23min 17sec and Condor's 21.29.20.

CYCLING: Francesco Moser, of Italy, won the prologue to the Tour of Spain yesterday covering the 6.3 kilometres individual time-trial in 8 minutes 8.63 seconds.

LEADING PLACINGS: 1, Fr Moser (It) 8.08.63; 2, P Cabestany (Sp), at 9 sec; 3, J Blanco (Sp), at 11; 4, J Gorospe (Sp) at 13; 5, G Petito (It) at 17.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Los Angeles Dodgers 6, Houston Astros 4

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York Mets	6	3	.667	–
Philadelphia Phil	6	3	.667	–
St Louis Cardinals	6	4	.600	½
Chicago Cubs	5	4	.556	1
Montreal Expos	5	5	.500	1½
Pittsburgh Pir	3	7	.300	3½

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego Padres	9	2	.818	–
Los Angeles Dodg	6	5	.545	3
San Francisco Gts	4	6	.400	4½
Cincinnati Reds	4	7	.364	5
Houston Astros	4	7	.364	5
Atlanta Braves	3	8	.273	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cleveland Indians 4, Baltimore Orioles 3; Minnesota Twins 9, California Angels 2; Oakland Athletics 9, Seattle Mariners 5.

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit Tigers	3	0	1.000	–
Toronto Blue Jays	6	4	.600	3
Cleveland Indians	5	4	.556	3½
New York Yankees	4	6	.400	5
Boston Red Sox	3	6	.333	5½
Milwaukee Braves	3	7	.300	6
Baltimore Orioles	2	7	.222	6½

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland Athletics	8	4	.667	–
Minnesota Twins	7	4	.636	½
Seattle Mariners	7	4	.636	½
Kansas City Royals	5	5	.500	2
Chicago White Sox	4	4	.500	2
California Rangers	3	7	.300	4
Texas Rangers	3	7	.300	4

FOOTBALL

SINGAPORE: Olympic qualifying tournament: Kuwait 0, South Korea 0; Saudi Arabia 1, Bahrain 1.
MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Peterborough United 2, Southend United 0.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Swansea City 6, Crystal Palace 0.
MONDAY'S RESULTS: Third division: Bolton Wanderers 2, Plymouth Argyle 1; Southend United 2, Bradford City 1.
FA SCHOOLS FESTIVAL (at Oakham): East Berks 2, Chester-le-Street and Washington 1; Bradford 2, Mid-Oxon 1; North Kent 3, Grimsby 0; West Cornwall 3, Poole 2; Peterborough 3, Wigan 5; Lincoln 2, Kettering and Corby 4; Stoke 2, Plymouth 1.

SHOOTING

LOS ANGELES: Pre-Olympic competition: Skeet: 1, M Dryke (US), 197 pts; 2, O Rasmussen (Den), 196; 3, E Swinkels (Neth), 195.
VILAMOURA (Portugal): European sporting championship: 1, A J Smith (Lymington), 120 pts out of possible 200. Juniors: 1, P Foster (Northallerton) 172. International 4-man event: 1, GB, 724 out of 800.

SQUASH RACKETS

HALIFAX: World Cup: Mrs R Thorne bt Miss M Le Moignan, 9-13, 13-10, 13-2, 13-7; D Williams bt P Kenyon, 13-6, 13-10, 9-13, 13-6. Williams and Mrs Thorne won 6-2 and qualify to play S Devenport and Miss A Smith in grand final.
DERBY: Diners' Trophy: Miss A Smith bt Miss A Cowie, 9-2, 9-4, 5-9, 9-3. Men's Trophy: G Briars bt G Williams, 9-4, 4-9, 9-0, 4-9, 9-6. Diners' Challenge Trophy: N Cook bt R Batwala, 9-7, 9-4, 9-5.

WATER POLO

ROME: Olympic qualifying competition: Australia 17, Bulgaria 9; Spain 13, Japan 6; China 19, Zimbabwe 7; Canada 12, Brazil 7; Italy 9, France 8; Mexico 10, Greece 9.
ATP RANKINGS: 1, J McEnroe (USA); 2, I Lendl (Cz); 3, J Connors (US); 4, M Wilander (Swe); 5, J Arias (US); 6, Y Noah (Fr); 7, J Higueras (Sp); 8, A Gomez (Ec); 9, E Teltscher (US); 10, J-L Clerc (Arg).

VOLLEYBALL

PALMA DE MALLORCA: Spring Cup: Spain 3, West Germany 1; Portugal 0, Italy 3; Norway 3, France 1, Netherlands 3, Israel 0; Belgium 3, England 0; Spain Juniors 3, Finland 0; Switzerland 0, Sweden 3; Greece 3, Austria 0.

GOLF

LPGA EARNINGS: 1, P Bradley, $107,798; 2, P Sheehan, $73,052; 3, J Inkster, $67,828; 4, B King, $63,860; N Lopez, $57,078; 6, C Johnson $56,358; 7, A [illegible] (Japan), $53,838; 8, A Miller, $45,783; 9, J Carner, $41,104; 10 L Rinker, $38,272.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Play-offs: New York Islanders 5, Washington Capitals 2 (Islander lead series 3-1); Edmonton Oilers 5, Calgary Flames 3 (Oilers lead 3-1); Quebec Nordiques 4, Montreal Canadiens 3 (series tied 2-2); Minnesota North Stars 3, St Louis Blues 2 (series tied 2-2).

SNOW REPORT

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andermatt	70	260	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fog	+5
New blown snow on ice base							
Arosa	145	170	Good	Varied	Good	Snow	–1
Good skiing conditions							
Grindelwald	20	130	Good	Heavy	Fair	Cloud	–8
New snow on hard base							
Isola 2000	150	180	Fair	Spring	Fair	Cloud	–1
Lifts closed due to high winds							
Courmayeur	140	200	Good	Varied	Poor	Fine	+3
Hard snow on pistes							
La Plagne	180	360	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	+1
Powder on good base							
St Anton	30	430	Good	Powder	Fair	Snow	+2
New snow down to village							
Soldeu	60	85	Good	Varied	Closed	Fine	+3
Off-piste good in mornings							
Tignes	163	300	Good	Heavy	Fair	Snow	+7
Bad light impares skiing							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes.

SCOTLAND: Cairngorms: Upper and middle runs: complete, wide cover of new snow with icy patches. Lower slopes: complete, wide cover of spring snow. Hill and main roads: clear. Vertical runs: 1,500ft. Snow level: 2,000ft. Lecht: Upper and middle runs: complete, wide cover of spring snow. Lower slopes: ample nursery areas. Spring snow. Hill and main roads: clear. Vertical runs: 700ft. Snow level: 2,000ft. Glenshee: Upper and middle runs: complete. Spring snow on a firm base. Lower slopes: ample nursery areas. Spring snow on a firm base. Hill and main roads: clear. Vertical runs: 1,000ft. Snow level: 2,000ft. Glencoe: no report.

RACING: HARWOOD'S COLT NOW VYING WITH EL GRAN SENOR FOR 2000 GUINEAS FAVOURITISM

Innamorato can lift another Free Handicap for Cecil

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Having won the race two years ago with Match Winner and finished second 12 months ago with Salieri, Henry Cecil and Lester Piggott have a good chance of maintaining their excellent recent record in the Free Handicap at Newmarket today with **Innamorato**, who has been the subject of glowing reports from George Robinson, our Resident Correspondent.

Innamorato may have crept in this competitive handicap with too little weight, following facile victories at Brighton and Leicester last autumn. More important, perhaps, is the fact that the Cecil colts all ran well at Newbury and Thirsk last weekend. That was a good omen and a pointer to Innamorato continuing the good work.

Forzando, Kalim, Bluff House, Novello and Boezinge should form the hard core of my selection's opposition. Forzando is an admirably tough colt by that promising young stallion Formidable. Last season he went from strength to strength and won his last three races, carrying top weight each time.

Kalim enters the fray with a race already under his belt. And that race in the 2000 Guineas trial at Salisbury will have done him a power of good.

Novello showed last year that he is capable of coming to hand early by winning the first race of his career at Newmarket and I expect him to give Pat Eddery a good ride without beating Innamorato.

Cecil and Piggott also have a fair chance of winning the Wood Ditton stakes with the promising newcomer Fumbo Jumbo but preference here is for Jeremy Tree's **Lykaion**.

The master of Warren Place has posed a problem in the Earl of Sefton Stakes by deciding to run both Adonijah and Legend Of France. Nothing should be made of Piggott's presence on Adonijah. After an altercation last autumn he no longer rides for Legend Of France's owner, Daniel Wildenstein.

Joe Mercer, who rode Legend Of France in the second of his two races last year, has the ride again. A pulled muscle restricted Legend Of France to two races as a three-year-old, but he is clearly very smart, judged on the second of those two performances and quite capable, in his trainer's opinion, of holding his own in this company. He should be hard to beat.

Flame Of Tara, the Irish runner, finished in front of Adonijah, Montekin, Hot Touch, and Muscatite in last year's Champion Stakes when she was just pipped by Cormorant Wood. A victory over a mile and a half on The Curragh last month proved that Flame Of Tara had trained on after a winter's rest, but I cannot help wondering whether the distance of today's race – which is only nine furlongs – will prove too short for both her and last year's Derby third, Shearwalk. Furthermore, this will be Shearwalk's first race since Epsom.

No matter how he runs his owner, Robert Sangster, and trainer, Michael Stoute, could easily have cause to celebrate if Grey Dream runs up to expectations in the Abernant Stakes. Sangster's Swettenham Stud paid 220,000 guineas for grey Dream at Newmarket last December when she was sold there by Tattersalls.

Grey Dream spent her formative days in Ireland where she was trained last year by Kevin Prendergast for whom she won twice, besides finishing second three times. Stoute is clearly pleased with the way that Sangster's relatively new acquisition has been going at home and she is selected to beat a whole host of useful sprinters.

Course specialists

NEWMARKET

TRAINER: H Cecil 86 winners form 305 runners 28.2%; M Stoute 48 from 322 14.9%; B Hobbs 39 from 282 13.8%.

JOCKEYS: L Piggott 112 winners from 498 rides 22.5%; J Mercer 55 from 392 14.0%; W Carson 53 from 390 13.6%; S Cauthen 41 from 351 11.7%; G Baxter 32 from 288 11.1%.

RIPON

TRAINERS: G Harwood 2 winners from 4 runners 50.0%; R Armstrong 10 from 36 27.8%; M H Easterby [illegible] from 151 19.2%.

JOCKEYS: M Birch 32 winners from 217 rides 14.7%; L Charnock 7 from 99 7.1%; K Hodgson 8 from 77 10.4%.



Lear Fan (left) holds Rainbow Quest in a thrilling finish to the Craven Stakes (Photograph: Chris Cole).

Lear Fan set for a classic showdown

By Michael Seely

Lear Fan is duelling favouritism with El Gran Señor for the 2,000 Guineas after beating Rainbow Quest by a short head in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket yesterday. All the market leaders for the first of the colts' classics have now passed their tests with flying colours. Guy Harwood reflected the general mood of excitement when he said afterwards, "That was really good. It was just what Lear Fan wanted. But I can tell you one thing. Its going to be a tough race back here in a fortnight's time."

Lear Fan caused a few flutters beforehand by being unwilling to enter his saddling box. But he then walked round the paddock with an air of unconcern, his burley air of massive well being presenting a striking contrast to the elegant athleticism of his chief rival. "Thats just his way," said Harwood, talking about this idiocyncray. "But Lear Fan is as kind as a Christian and he does everything you ask him to."

Both horses broke smartly from the stalls, Rainbow Quest being particularly keen to get on with the job. At the Bushes Greville Starkey was the first to ask his mount to quicken. At that point Rainbow Quest appeared to be going a fraction the easier. But the second favourite became a trifle outpaced as Lear Fan lengthened his stride. And it was only up the final hill that th Blushing Groom colt's stamina came into play.

Both jockeys wee delighted with the respective performances. "Lear Fan was a bit fresh, but he did it great," said Starkey "He can only improve." "Rainbow Quest refused to settle for the first two furlongs" was Cauthen's comment. "He wouldn't relax, but it should be a different story in the fast gallop of the Guineas. And if I'd been a bit harder on him, he'd just about have won." That is how it looked from the stands.

Concern about Rainbow Quest's future was also uppermost in Jeremy Tree's mind afterwards. "We're not going to be hurried," said the Beckhampton trainer. "I want to wait for ten days to see how he's taken this race. With the Derby in mind, he's got to be persuaded to settle. Rainbow Quest ran far too freely today. And if he is a stayer, which I think he is, I don't want to get him too hotted up. I know that the Guineas is a classic as well, but it might become a temptation to give him an easier race in something like the Dee Stakes at Chester."

There is a great deal of common sense in what this astute trainer says, but judged by the style of Rainbow Quest's determined finish, his chance of reversing yesterday's placings with Lear Fan in the Guineas cannot be dismissed out of hand, even on 5lb worse terms. If ever there looked an ideal type for the Derby, Rainbow Quest must be that horse. And the 8-1 on offer looks a tempting price.

The bookmakers' reaction varied only in degree. Lear Fan is 7-4 favourite for the Guineas with Esals and is top priced at 5-2 with Ward Hill. Ladbrokes probably put the matter in perspective by going 7-4 El Gran Senor and 9-4 Lear Fan.

The form book suggests that there is little between the pair. But the bust of speed by El Gan Senor when racing clear of Rainbow Quest in last autumn's Dewhurst Stakes would appear to give Vincent O'Brien's unbeaten Northern Dancer colt a slight edge. But at these prices it must be best to play a waiting game, at any rate until Tree has shown his hand about Rainbow Quest.

The punters started the afternoon on a bad note when Bonjour Tristesse could only finish fourth behind Don Martino in the Stetchworth Stakes. You had to like Jeremy Hindley's comment about his 16-1 winner. "I didn't think I'd have a winner until June, I was only trying to imitate the maestro, Henry Cecil, by having my first runner at the Craven meeting."

Favourite backers were also out of luck in the Elveden Stakes when Coda finished unplaced behind Glowing With Pride. "She's probably earned the right to run in the 1000 Guineas," said Geoffrey Wragg, "but first I want to see Miss Beaulieu run in the Nell Gwyn."

Reg Hollinshead, on the other hand, had no hesitation about naming Native Charmer as a certain starter for the 2000 Guineas after Steve Perks had ridden the Gay Fandango colt to a clearcut victory over Ashley Rocket and Miss Kuta Beach in the Ladbroke Handicap. "I thought he'd win at Doncaster," said the Staffordshire trainer, "But the poor colt got his feet stuck in the mud."

Henry Cecil received some consolation for the defeat of Bonjour Tristesse when Lester Piggott partnered Prince Of Peace to a clever victory over Wagoner in the Swaffham Handicap.

Finally backers went home happy after Run With The Wind had made his previous experience tell against Northern Treat and Andrios in the Stuntney Stakes.

La Boeuf provides a family success

Ridley Lamb had to put up 2lb overweight on La Boeuf at Sedgefield yesterday, but it did not stop him winning the race named in honour of his late father, Reg. La Boeuf carried the colours of Reg's widow, Mrs Magaret Lamb, and is trained at Seahouses by Ridley's eldest brother, Tony.

La Bouef took the lead after the last fence and battled on well for a two length victory over Arctic Slogan, with the 6-4 favourite Laurensun a further 25 lengths back in third place.

Tony Lamb said: "This is the first running of the race. It was due to be run last year but it was rained off. My father always named Sedgefield as his favourite course when he was training, so we all decided to have a race named after him here. La Boeuf has been jumping rather carefully after nearly falling at Carlisle and losing a plate, but he seem to have got his confidence back now."

Richard Dunwoody, aged 20, is making a strong bid to land the amateur riders' championship. He is now just four short of the dual champion, Dermot Browne, with 22 winners after pushing Thomond Prince home by eight lengths from Mr Snow in the Monkey Puzzle Selling Handicap Hurdle.

John O'Neill gained his first winner for 27 days when Midsummer Special beat Seabright Smile by a length in division one of the Bran Tub Novices' Hurdle. Midsummer Special, trained by Charlie Mackenzie, at Newmarket, appeared to have a hopeless task with two flights still to jump, but came with a fine run down the hill to get up close home.

Powder Horn completed a double by taking the May And Hassell Novices' Chase by 12 lengths from Red Mills. The winning trainer Jacqueline Barr said: "Now she will go for a treble at Carlisle's Easter meeting on Monday. She must have this good to firm ground, and three miles is her best trip.

Melhagen got home by three-quarters of a length from Pink Path in Division two of the Bran Tub Novices' Hurdle, but the stewards held an inquiry and found that there was interference after the last hurdle. They reversed the first two placings.

New director

Major Barney Griffiths is to succeed Lt Col Douglas Gray as director of the British Racing School at Newmarket. Major Griffiths, who combined a successful military career with a close involvement in racing both as an amateur rider between 1959 and 1974 and as a permit holder between 1960 and 1970, takes up his post as director designate of the School on May 1.

TENNIS

A luckless star who relies on cast-offs

By Lewine Mair

Austen Brice, the seventh seed, although 1-4 down in his final set, defeated David Shann, of Hertfordshire, 6-1, 2-6, 7-5, to reach the fourth round of the British junior hard-court championship, sponsored by Prudential, at Wimbledon.

Shann, who won the 14-and-under junior grass-court championship before becoming better known as the boy who slept in a tennis club boiler-house in order to be able to play in the 1982 16-and-under national hard-court championships in Birmingham, is a wonderfully gifted little player. He used his lovely touch to great effect for much of yesterday's match, although towards the end his temperament deteriorated to a point where he was warned twice.

He may be his own worst enemy and yet it is difficult to suppress the notion that he has had less than his share of lucky breaks.

Shann arrived on court wearing shoes in which the toes of one foot were clearly visible. There are those who might say that he should spend what money he has on new shoes rather than ear-rings; but the fact remains that all the clothes he wears on court are other people's cast-offs.

The garage owner who came to his rescue after the boiler-house incident died some months ago. Shann now finances his tournament play by printing patterns on jigsaws. He is desperately keen to find a new sponsor and, should he meet with success, he would like a course of lessons with Chris Bradnam. As was noticeable yesterday, he has much to learn about keeping the pressure on an opponent when he is in the lead.

Brice must have been counting his blessings last night for, in addition to being allowed back into his match with Shann, he earlier in the day saved a match point against Stephen Heron when they finished the singles they had started the night before.

RESULTS: Singles: Second round: L Davies bt K Holloway, 6-0, 6-4; B Knapp bt C Peet, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2; S Cole w/o against N Pashley (scratched); M Walker bt A Davies, 6-1, 6-4; A Brice bt S Heron, 6-1, 2-6, 7-5; N Jones bt R Every, 2-6, 6-2, 7-5; R Jeffreys bt C Harris, 6-1, 6-2; D Ison bt S Booth, 6-4, 6-2; S Heritage bt L Matthews, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; A Harding bt S Tucker, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2. Third round: J Goodall bt D Sapsford, 6-2, 7-5; R Whichello bt D Smith, 6-1, 6-3; A Brice bt D Shann, 6-1, 2-6, 7-5.

GIRLS: Single, Second round: J Holden bt R Couldridge, 6-2, 6-0; C Wood bt S Whiteman, 6-1, 7-6; S Gough bt K Montague, 2-6, 7-6, 6-1; S McCarthy bt B Welt, 6-2, 6-1; C Pollard bt J Smith, 6-3, [illegible]; A Grunfeld [illegible] Charlton, 6-[illegible]. Third round: [illegible] Gould bt [illegible]; [illegible] Blenham bt [illegible]

Higueras pulls out of Open



Higueras: hand infection

Monte Carlo (Reuter). – Jose Higueras, of Spain, the fifth seed, pulled out injured and Jose Luis Clerc, of Argentine, seeded seventh, was beaten in the first round of the $405,000 (£275,000) Open tournament here yesterday.

Higueras, aged 31, suffering from an infection on his hand and a splinter embedded in his thigh, was unable to take on Roberto Arguello, of Argentina. Pavel Slozil, of Czechoslavakia, took the court instead against Arguello, a semi-finalist in last week's Nice Open.

Jimmy Arias, of the United States, looked likely to miss his match against Jan Gunnarsson, of Sweden, because of a knee problem. Clerc, ranked tenth in the world, lost 6-2, 6-4 to Henrik Sundstrom of Sweden.

RESULTS: First round: H Sundstrom (Swe) bt J-L Clerc (Arg) 6-2, 6-4; G Vilas (Arg) bt F Luna (Sp) 6-2, 6-1; Perez (Uru) bt C Lewis (NZ) 6-4, 7-5; I Lendl (Cz) bt H Leconte (Fr) 6-4, 6-0.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

UEFA under-21 championship
Semi-final, first leg
England v Italy (at Maine Road)

First division
Leicester City v Liverpool (7.45)
Tottenham Hotspur v Aston Villa (8.0)

Third division
Millwall v Southend United (7.45)

Fourth division
Chester City v York City

Scottish premier division
Aberdeen v Dundee United
Dundee v Motherwell
St Mirren v Celtic

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Dagenham v Worcester; Scarborough v Runcorn.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Buxton v Chorley; Witton v Hyde; Worksop v Gainsborough. President's Cup Final, first leg: Marine v Workington.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Newcastle v Derby (7.0); Sheffield United v Blackburn (7.0); Stoke v Liverpool (7.0); Sunderland v Bolton; West Bromwich Albion v Sheffield Wednesday (7.0). Second division: Barnsley v Blackpool (7.0); Coventry v Chesterfield (7.0).
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Bristol Rovers v Tottenham (2.30); Chelsea v Arsenal (2.15); Norwich v Fulham; Reading v Watford.
IRISH LEAGUE (6.45): Carrick v Bangor; Cliftonville v Glenavon; Distillery v Glentoran.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Chesham v Epsom and Ewell.
ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Edgware v Whyteleafe.
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Combined Services XI v FA XI (at Aldershot Military Stadium)
MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Portsmouth v Bournemouth (2.0)
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Merthyr Tydfil v Tamworth. Southern Division: Basingstoke v Erith and Belvedere; RS Southampton v Salisbury.

RUGBY UNION:
CLUB MATCHES: Clifton v Bristol Harlequins; Brighton v Fylde
CORNWALL CUP: Final: Redruth v Hayle (at Penryn RFC, 6.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE:
SECOND DIVISION: Dewsbury v Huddersfield; Hunslet v Bramley

CRICKET
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Leicestershire (11.30 to 6.30)

OTHER SPORT
TENNIS: Junior Hardcourt Championships of Great Britain: 18 and Under (at AELTC, Wimbledon, 9.30)
SQUASH RACKETS: World Cup: Final at Edgbaston Priory Club, Birmingham, 6.30

NEWMARKET (ITV)

[Televised: (C4) 2.35, 3.10, 3.40, 4.10]

GOING: good to firm

Draw: No advantage

Tote: double 3.10, 4.10. Treble 2.35, 3.40, 4.40

2.0 WOOD DITTON STAKES (3-y-o: £4,389: 1m) (20 runners)

101	AL KHAWAANEEG (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) Thomson Jones 9-0	A Murray 18
102	BANK PARADE (Mrs M Haggas) J Hindley 9-0	M Hills 7
103	BLAZE AHEAD (Tjio Tek Tan) M Jarvis 9-0	B Raymond 4
104	DUNDY (Dr C Vittadini) P Walwyn 9-0	Paul Eddery 13
106	FUMBO JUMBO (J Frankel) H Cecil 9-0	L Piggott 15
107	GEOVALE (S Fradkoff) L Cumani 9-0	D McHargue 19
108	GULFLAND (Ld Cadogan) G Pritchard-Gordon 9-0	G Duffield 16
109	LIMIN (Sheikh Mohammed) J Dunlop 9-0	B Rouse 3
110	LONG POND (D Dein) P Kelleway 9-0	J Reid 20
111	LUCKY NORTH (Mrs R du Pont) W Hern 9-0	W Carson 17
112	LYKAION (K Abdulla) J Tree 9-0	Pat Eddery 2
114	RHUSTED (A Shead) B Hills 9-0	R Street 11
115	RIVER CEIRIOG (R McAlpine) B Hills 9-0	S Cauthen 8
116	SARAWAT MOUNTAINS (Fazal Racing Ltd) P Cole	E Hide 14
118	SWYNFORD CHAMPAGNE (I Bryant) K Ivory 9-0	P Robinson 10
121	WYLFA (Ld Mostyn) M Stoute 9-0	W R Swinburn 6
122	YABIS (H H Kais Al-Said) G Hunter 9-0	G Starkey 1
123	YOUNG NICHOLAS (P Goulandris) P Walwyn 9-0	J Mercer 9
125	MILL d'ART (R Young) P Feilden 8-11	P D'Arcy 12
127	TROYANNE (Sir R McAlpine) G Wragg 8-11	T Ives 6

1983: Majestic Endeavour 9-0 W R Swinburn (5-2 fav) M Stoute 17 ran.

15-8 Fumbo Jumbo, 11-4 Lykaion, 5 Lucky North, 11-2 Al Khawaaneeg, 8 Wylfa, 12 Limin,

Newmarket selections

By Mandarin

2.00 Lydaion. 2.35 Shipwright. 3.10 Innamosato. 3.40 Legend Of France. 4.10 GREY DREAM (nap). 4.40 Fraulein Tobin.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.00 Long Pond. 2.35 Prime Assett. 3.10 Innamosato. 3.40 Legend Of France. 4.10 Yellow Domino. 4.40 Beach Ball.

By Michael Seely

3.10 Innamosato. 3.40 Legend Of France. 4.10 GREY DREAM (nap).

2.35 APRIL MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o: £2,966: 1m 4f) (23)

203	3-	BAYNOUN (H H Aga Khan) R Houghton 9-0	L Piggott 6
204	00-	BE MY WINGS (Elisha Holding) G Lewis 9-0	P Waldron 8
205	24-	DUELLING (K Abdulla) J Tree 9-0	Pat Eddery 19
207	0	FREE BUCK (R Chuter) B Swift 9-0	R Fox 21
208	00384-	GERYON (P Fahey) B Hills 9-0	S Cauthen 18
210	0	LIDGATE BELT (Mrs J Pycott) M Tompkins 9-0	R Curant 12
211	322-0	LITTLE LOOK (BF) (S Niarchos) G Harwood 9-0	G Starkey 15
212		MA CHOUETTE (M Garcia) N Callaghan 9-0	J Mercer 9
213	0-	MALIBU BEACH (D Harrison) E Eldin 9-0	E Guest 5 5
214	0-	MOSOF (J Bacon) D Oughton 9-0	A Murray 13
215	4-4	PRIME ASSET (Mrs P Yong) W O'Gorman 9-0	T Ives 11
216		PRIVITY (E Seltzer) J Hindley 9-0	M Hills 20
217		PUGET (B McNeil) J Dunlop 9-0	B Rouse 16

[illegible]

3.10 LADBROKE EUROPEAN FREE HANDICAP (3-y-o: £17,103: 7f) (17)

[illegible]

3.40 EARL OF SEFTON STAKES (Group III: £14,804: 1m 1f) (11)

412	3/1123-	SHEARWALK (C) (R Sangster) M Stoute 4-8-10	W R Swinburn 11
414	020000-	WELSH IDOL (P Kelleway) P Kelleway 4-8-10	G Starkey 8

1983: Ivano 4-8-13 L Piggott (7-1) H Cecil 7 ran.

11-4 Adonijah, 7-2 Flame Of Tara, 5 Legend Of France, 13-2 Muscatite, 8 Montekin, 10 Shearwalk, Hot Touch, 20 others.

FORM: FLAME OF TARA Winner in Ireland this season, (8-7) was 3rd, beaten head and short head, [illegible]

4.10 ABERNANT STAKES (£6,565: 6f) (19)

[illegible]

4.40 BARTLOW MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-y-o: £2,532: 5f) (10)

[illegible]

Newmarket results

[illegible]

Today's Point-to-Point

East Devon at Stafford Cross (2.0).

RIPON

GOING: good

Draw advantage: 5, 6f low, 8f over, high numbers.

2.45 HACKFALL APPRENTICE HANDICAP STAKES (£1,427: 6f) (21 runners)

21	0001-	FAIR TRADER R Peacock 3-7-13	— 17
22	00-02	BLACKPOOL BELLE J Berry 3-7-12	A Geran 7 3
24	000-0	DANZIG M Lambert 7-7-11	A Cunningham 7 20
25	00-00	RAPID LADY Mrs M Nesbitt 4-7-8	G Dickie 7
26	000/0-	DRAGON ROCKET D Plant 4-7-7	J Murray 7 11
27	0000-	STAY SECRET (B) (D) W Bentley 7-7-7	J Carolle 8
28	000-0	HUYTON'S HOPE T Taylor 3-7-7	J King 7 14

1983: No corresponding race.

4 Parabems, 5 Oyston Estates, 6 Fill The Jug, Blackpool Belle, 8 Roman Quest, 10 Archimboldo, April Lucky, 12 Throw Me Over, Fair Trader, 14 others.

Ripon selections

By Mandarin

2.45 Parabems. 3.15 Kelly Bay. 3.45 El Capistrano Dawn. 4.15 Star Video. 4.45 Boardmans Glory. 5.15 Hafeaf.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.45 Magus. 3.45 Stormy Gulf. 4.15 Absent Chimes. 4.45 Manor Farm Trio. 5.15 Lineman.

3.15 DANBY SELLING HANDICAP STAKES (£1,040: 1m) (20)

4	0300-	HILLSDOWN LAD J Harris 6-9-7	A Bond 8
5	00-21	KELLY BAY (D) S Norton 3-9-5	C Ollivier 5 18
7	0-000	CUTACROSS A Potts 4-9-3	O Gray 1
8	300-0	PALACE OF LOVE H Fleming 4-9-1	C Dwyer 19
9	002-2	HONEST TOKEN (D) (BF) C Thornton 5-9-1	J Bleasdale 10

[illegible]

3.45 STUDLEY ROYAL HANDICAP STAKES (3-y-o: £2,026: 1m 4f) (8)

1	040-1	EL CAPISTRANO DAWN Capt J Wilson 9-7	K Darley 6
3	120-4	STORMY GULF M Tompkins 9-0	R Carter 7 1
4	000-4	BORODINO T Fairhurst 9-0	R P Elliott 8
6	4000	PLOUGHMAN'S R Hollinshead 8-12	S Perks 3

[illegible]

4.15 GREWELTHORPE ESTAKES (2-y-o: £1,690: 5f) (8)

[illegible]

4.45 FOUNTAINS AUCTION STAKES (2-y-o: £1,956: 5f) (23)

[illegible]

11-4 Coded Love, [illegible] Eslam, 10 Manor F[illegible] others.

5.15 SPA WATER STAKES (£2,381: 1m 1f) (20)

[illegible]

Sedgefield

[illegible]

Perth programme

[illegible]

Blinkered first time

[illegible]

McHarg: the towering talent that today goes into permanent exile

A landmark vanishes from London

Young and promising lock forwards may rejoice but those of us who enjoy seeing an unfettered spirit abroad on the rugby field will watch with sadness the departure from the first-class game today of Alastair McHarg. It will be his last competitive appearance for London Scottish in their merit table game wi Metropolitan Police at Imber Court.

Typically, it will not be quite the last of McHarg in the Scottish jersey he has graced and gambolled in for the last 16 seasons. He accompanies the club's tour to Bermuda and celebrates his fortieth birthday in June, after which his playing is likely to be confined to charity games. For which London rugby will be the poorer.

It has been one of the pleasures of reporting rugby to try to guess where, in any given game, McHarg would turn up next. Not for him the head down, looking in at muddy ruck or maul – you would as likely find him outside the wing or supporting the full back.

Yet his partner for six seasons, for Scotland, Gordon Brown, had this to say of him: "He is one of the most talented players to wear a Scottish jersey. He ranks among the greatest lineout ball-winners of all time. His tendency to play out in the open frustrated me at times but then that was Alastair McHarg. Many is the time he turned up seemingly from nowhere to save the day for Scotland."

He was not, it may be said, the tightest of tight forwards. Yet no one plays 44 games for his country – only Sandy Carmichael, the prop, played more times as a forward – without offering considerable talent which Bill Dickenson, then effectively the Scottish coach, was wise enough to allow for. As McHarg himself put it: "Why pick a guy and then try to change his style?"

McHarg believes his roving nature developed early. He was born and brought up in Irvine on Scotland's west coast, went to school at the Royal Academy but had to go to Ardrossan to play his rugby as a youth. The eight-mile bus trip palled after a while and he became a founder-member of Irvine Royal Academicals, acting as fixture secretary and jack of all trades on the field. He learnt that often, if he did not do something himself during a game, it did not get done at all.



McHarg: the man from nowhere.

He was capped as a West of Scotland player against Ireland in 1968, along with men such as David Rollo and Alex Hastie who, the season before, had been his heroes. The following season he moved to London and joined the Exiles; he played in the Surrey side who won the county championship in 1971 and he was still doing Surrey proud this season, the years seeming to make little difference to his spare 6ft 5in frame.

"As far as rugby is concerned, I played for one thing only, enjoyment," McHarg said. "I have been lucky enough to play at a certain level and the reason I'm not going to play on is because I'm not enjoying it as much as I did." He has no regrets, not even that he was never asked to tour with the British Lions. "I don't think I would fancy three months' training every day; in any case I was only available for two of the tours, South Africa in 1968, when I had only just been capped, and in 1974."

One of the locks on that 1974 tour to South Africa was his great friend and rival, Chris Ralston, of Richmond, joint tenants with London Scottish of the Athletic Ground. Ralston was consistently his most difficult opponent while another pair of Lions of the same vintage, Ian McGeechan and Iain McLauchlan, were "gems of people" who played in the same outstanding Scottish sides of the early 1970s. "McGeechan would never pass to me when I turned up at centre," McHarg grins. "I was faster than he was, anyway".

The high emotion of McHarg's younger spectating days has gone, leaving a critical eye. He would be a stern coach, but only on his own terms. He would look for discipline but, on the way, he could hardly fail to instil some of his own pleasure in the game and something of his native instinct for the ball; in an age where genuine characters are at a premium, it would be wise to watch for that slightly hollow-cheeked face and zestful eye turning up where least expected.

David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

American wing in London XV

An American, a New Zealander and a Scot are among the five internationals chosen for London against Paris at Wasps' grond at Sudbury on April 29. They are, Harlequins' American wing, Jefferson, and his clubmates, the centre, Salmon, and the Scotland lock, Cuthbertson.

This is the first contest between the capitals since 1980. The London selectors see it as part of their build-up to the match against the Australians next autumn.

Jean Pierre-Rives is expected to be in the Paris side for the match, which will be sponsored for the first time by the building contractors, Kyle Stewart.

LONDON: (Rosslyn Park): S Smith (Wasps), J Salmon (Harlequins), A Thompson (Harlequins), W Jefferson (Harlequins); M Williams (Wasps), J Cullen (Wasps), S Henderson (Rosslyn Park), E Weekes (Harlequins), W Cuthbertson (Harlequins), J Hames (Wasps), K Moss (Wasps), D Cooke (Harlequins captain). Replacements: R Dudman (Harlequins), S Smith (Bedford), A Woodhouse (Harlequins), J Olver (Harlequins), M Claxton (Harlequins), C Pinnegar (Wasps).

Whistlestop summer for referees and coaches

By David Hands

England's rugby players are not the only ones who face a busy summer. The leading referees find increasing demands made on their time while the work of the coaches is seldom stilled. "In spite of our playinng results we are still considered to be quite good teachers of the game," Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union's technical administrator, said.

Roger Quittenton, who will officiate in his fifth John Player Cup final on April 28, is to handle the first two internationals between Australia and New Nealand on July 21 and August 4; the third in the series goes to David Burnett, of Ireland. Another of England's international referee panel, Tony Trigg, will take charge of the international between United States and Canada in Chicago on June 9.

Alan Old, the RFU technical administrator for the north, and Roger Uttley, the former England captian, now a senior coach, have accepted an invitation from the Toronto RFU to coach in Canada next month, following Rutherford, who spent some time there last September immediately before the short tour of England made by the Canadian national side.

The Miagara RFU and the national unions of Denmark and Thailand have also applied for coaching assistance while, reversing the process, Canadian and Dutch boys are expected to attend selected RFU courses this summer. And there may be Italian visitors to the new open courses for boys aged between 12 and 14 and for parents, sons, coaches and young players up to 12 years old which will be introduced in July and August and run by the four divisional technical administrators in Nottingham, Durham, Horsham and Taunton

Barbarians pick England men

The Barbarians have picked five members of the England party who will tour South Africa next month for their Easter tour of South Wales this weekend. They are Stringer, Cusani, Fidler, Rees and Rendall.

There are 13 new Barbarians

PARTY: G Evans (Maesteg), N Stringer (Wasps), R Baird (Kelso), S Smith (Wasps), M Titley (Bridgend), R Underwood (Leicester), B Bowen (South Wales Police), D Johnston (Watsonians), D Richards (Swansea), J Salmon (Harlequins), D Camberabero (La Voulte), I George (Northampton), R Harding (Bristol), D Fitzgerald (Lansdowne), I Milne (Heriot's FP), P Rendall (Wasps), C White (Gosforth), C Fitzgerald (St Mary's College), G Runciman (Melrose), D Cusani (Orrell), W Cuthbertson (Harlequins), J Fidler (Gloucester), T Shaw (Newbridge), J Jeffrey (Kelso), G Rees (Nottingham), P Simpson (Bath), G Williams (Bridgend), L Connor (Waterloo), R Hesford (Bristol).

● Paris (AFP) – The French No 8, Jean-Luc Joinel, may, after all, tour New Zealand in June. His employers, Adidas, who originally declined to give him time off, yesterday said they would allow him to go.

MARATHON

Smith runs out top of the class

From Pat Butcher, Boston

Geoff Smith could sit back in relative comfort in his hotel here yesterday while Eddie Sowens, his coach, massaged his aching legs, for his runaway win, in 2hr 10min 34sec, in the Boston marathon has virtually assured him of a place in the British Olympic squad.

The team of three will be selected on May 15, following the London marathon. Smith might have given the runners in London a target to aim at, but, as he said yesterday: "It is not my 2:10.34 that they have got to beat, it is my 2:09.08."

That is the time – a British best – which Smith recorded in New York last November when he just lost to Rod Dixon, of New Zealand. The fastest time in London so far has been Hugh Jones's 2:09.24 two years ago, and Jones's consistency – he has not lost to a Briton in three years – should also ensure his place for Los Angeles.

Smith, a fireman in his native Liverpool for 10 years before taking up an athletics scholarship in Providence, Rhode Island, 50 miles down the road from here, returns to England next month and will compete in the 10,000 metres Olympic trial at the UK Closed championships in Cwmbran.

"He will run the fastest 10,000 metres in Britain, if not the world," forecast Sowens – a statement as bald as his head. But Smith has no intention of contesting both the marathon and the 10,000 metres in Los Angeles: "I have been ignored by the selectors in the past in favour of people doubling up in championship races. You cannot run two properly," he said.

Smith's performances in the two premier marathons in the United States have made him one of the best known athletes here.

LEADING POSITIONS: 1, G Smith (GB), 2 hr 10 min 34 sec; 2, G Vanesse (US), 2:14.49; 3, D Tibaduza (Col), 2:15.40; 4, G Zetina (US), 2:15.41; 5, K Jonansen (Den), 2:16.36; 6, M Kiiholma (US), 2:16.58.
LEADING WOMEN: 1, L Moller (NZ), 2:29.28; 2, M-L Hamrin (Swe), 2:33.51; 3, S Grottenburg (Nor), 2:37 11

EQUESTRIANISM

Lemieux's incentive to stop at nothing

By Jenny MacArthur

Robert Lemieux, aged 23, has earned himself a place on the three-day-event Olympic short list with The Gamesmaster after their performance at the Badminton Horse Trials last weekend where they finished seventh. The honour is a timely reward for the horse's owner, The Boardman Furnishing Group, who stepped in to buy a horse for Lemieux to ride two days before it was due to be sold to an American buyer for £40,000.

Lemieux, who is the only short-listed rider not on the original long list of 14 naes released last year, knew that he had "everything to prove" last weekend. Despite the pressure of being at his first Badminton – "I under-estimated how electric the atmosphere is there" he said afterwards – they completed one of the better dressage tests, produced a fine cross-country round and had just one fence, the gate, down in the showjumping.

The heat in Los Angeles will take its toll and in drawing up their shortlist the selectors have attached importance to fit, younger horses. The Gamesmasters, who was bred by Gordon Giddings in Wiltshire, is one of four eight-years-olds on the list. The others are Oxford Blue and Sir Wattie, whom Ian Stark rode into third and sixth place at Badminton and S. R. Direct Mail Limited's Walkabout, who finished eleventh, ridden by David Green, who acquired British nationality earlier this year.

Stark's splace on the short list comes as no surprise to anyone who saw him complete two perfect cross-country rounds on both his horses. Stark, whose name was almost unknown before the Bramham three-day event last June where he finished first on Sir Wattie and third on Oxford Blue, gave up his work as a civil servant two years ago to open a livery yard at his home near Selkirk and concentrate on eventing.

Quiet and self-effacing, the 30-year-old Scotsman now finds himself at the centre of the eventing stage. Although inexperienced compared with other short-listed names such as the triple gold medal winner Richard Meade and world champion Lucinda Green, his ability and temperament are more than equal to the big occasion.

Meade: High hopes on Milton General

Meade's likely Olympic ride is George Wimpey PLC's Kilcashel aged 12 but he now has a second short-listed horse in the ten year old Milton General owned by the Towerland Equestrian Centre. Meade has high hopes of the ten-year-old-gelding by Spartan General, formerly ridden by Lord Cottenham, but the horse missed Badminton because of a grazed knee and his form is still something of an unknown quantity. He and all the other short-listed riders will compete in the final Olympic trial at Castle Ashby in Northamptonshire from June 30 to July 1 after which the selectors will announce the names of the five riders who will go to Los Angeles.

SHORT LIST: Olympic three-day event: R Bayliss (Mystic Minstrel), D Clapham (Windjammer ad Jest Set III), I Clarke (Danville), D Green (Walkabout and Super Salesman), L Green (Regal Realm and Shannagh), V Holgate (Priceless and Night Cap) M Hunter (Bugsy Malone), R Lemieux (The Gamemaster), R Meade (Kilcashel and Milton General), I Stark (Oxfrd Blue and Sir Wattie).

BOXING

Kalule can give Price a lesson

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Ayub Kalule, probably the world's finest boxer in the last decade and more, apart from Leonard, threw his hat in the middleweight ring yesterday and declared that his aim was to box Marvin Hagler for the world title.

If he had said that two years ago in his adopted hometown of Copenhagen, the Don Kings of this world might have descended on him with contracts. But on a sunny spring day in an Islington pub the customers saw more future in a pint of beer than in the former world light-middleweight champion who has been out of boxing for over a year. "Three months ago back in Nairobi I realized that I still had something to give boxing, so I decided to come back," Kalule said.

The 30-year-old Ugandan starts on the road back with a contest against the tough and exciting young British middleweight, Jimmy Price, of Liverpool, at Alexandra Pavilion, north London, on April 25. In his day Kalule depended on the slightest of body movements to avoid blows and be in a position to strike, but three hard bouts against Leonard, Moore and McCullum and a year off may have slowed his reflexes down enough to make him an easy target for Price.

Price's manager, Frank Warren, said yesterday: "It is time to test Jimmy now that he knows he can go the distance. This will be his toughest fight. If Jimmy gets beaten it's not the end of the world." And then added: "If Kalule wins, we'll put Errol Christie in with him".

Kalule certainly had his work cut out. He not only had to cope with the likes of Price and Christie but also work his way up through the middleweights. His job is particularly difficult because he has not got a title. "I will try for the Commonwealth title," he said. "If I had not left Denmark and gone to Kenya I would have had the residential qualification to box for the European title. But after those hard fights my body felt a bit tired. I needed a rest."

Headgear to be made mandatory for Olympics

From Robin Gregg
Los Angeles

The International Amateur Boxing Association announced in Los Angeles on Monday that for the first time in the history of the Olympic Games boxers will wear headgear in the contests at the sports arena between July 29 and August 11. Colonel Don Hall, President of the Association called this move for mandatory headgear an historic development in boxing safety and predicted that professional boxing will eventually do the same.

"All the safety features you see today in professional boxing – began in amateur boxing", he said. Monday's action marks the end of a bitter struggle between the IABA countries of the west who wanted to have headgear, and the Eastern bloc countries, who did not.

Prolonged lobbying for mandatory headgear, principally by Loring Baker, President of the United States Amateur Boxing Federation won the day.

HOCKEY

Interesting newcomers to squad

By Sydney Friskin

Peter Abreo and Jerry Cox are in a squad of 25 selected for training at Bisham Abbey on May 5 and 6. Two more interesting newcomers are Nick Gordon and Ian Jennings and all four are forwards

Stephen Batchelor, Imran Sherwani and Mark Precious are for the present not available for consideration in England's more urgent plans which include two matches against Ireland in Dublin (May 12 and 13), two against the Netherlands (Maastrich, June 29 and Amsterdam, July 1).

SQUAD: P Abreo (Blackheath), M Allcock (Southgate), P Barber (Slough), K Bhaura (Hounslow), P Boxell (Leicester Westleigh), R Clift (Nottingham), J Cox (Bognor), D Craig (Southgate), D Dixon (Hounslow), R Dodds (Southgate), J Duthie (Southgate), D Faulkner (Guildford), N Gordon (Army), B Green (Hereford), M Grimley (Brooklands), N Hughes (Wakefield), J Hurst (St Albans), I Jennings (Army), S Kerly (Southgate), D Knott (Stourport), R Leman (East Grinstead), N Mallett (Bournville), J Potter (Hounslow), I Taylor (East Grinstead), S Taylor (Stourport).

BOOK REVIEW

Subject of a lifetime for a true champion

By Gordon Allan

David Bryant has brought out another book, and at a good time too, for summer is nearly here and in July the world singles champion defends his title at Aberdeen.

Bowl With Bryant (Willow Books, Collins: £8.95) is clearly written and handsomely illustrated. It goes over the same ground as Bryant On Bowls, first published in 1966, the year in which Bryant won his first world title. The earlier book has more autobiography and anecdote. The new one sticks to the game, in much greater detail.

"To the average person," Bryant writes, "there is apparently nothing difficult about the game of bowls. But bowling to me is an art, a science and the subject of a lifetime.

Nobody can turn himself into a champion, at this or any other sport, merely by reading a book, but he can always learn from it and improve. Bryant, a largely self-taught player, never ceases learning and thinking.

He divides his book into four sections: mechanics (including physical fitness), concentration, experience and temperament. Are you a skip who thinks he knows it all? Bryant will puncture your self-esteem. Have you penetrated the mysteries of greenkeeping? Bryant has. When you lose, do you throw a tantrum? Naughty fellow. And so on. It is all there whether or not you agree with him.

also on page 24


























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If you are 28+ and able to work on your own initiative please ring Mrs Maureen Jones on 01-242 1212.

Denton Hall and Burgin

£9,500
ST JAMES'S
One of Britain's largest companies needs an exceptionally versatile senior secretary to work as a 'float' exclusively at Director level.

Your workload will be immensely varied: you will be sufficiently adaptable to give back up to more than one boss as the ocassion arises, but you will also have the poise and personality to relish working at a very top level.

You will have an excellent secretarial track record, coupled with superb presentation and impeccable skills of 100/60.

Age 25 – 35.

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ANGELA MORTIMER

Branch Secretary

As Secretary at one of our branches in the West End you will be providing support to the Manager and his Sales Team, dealing with both secretarial and admin duties.

You will be working under pressure, therefore you will need sound secretarial experience and audio skills (min 50 wpm typing) with the ability to be organized and unflappable!

Full training will be given in the use of a Word Processor. We can offer you a salary of £8,000 together with good large company benefits. If you are aged 24+ and would like further details please telephone Theresa Green on 01-499 0631.

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International company seeks a new team member for their hectic Human Resources department. We would like someone who is bright, energetic and enthusiastic, able to communicate at all levels and who will show initiative. A good admin/secretarial background, preferably with some P.A. experience, is required. This is a long-term temporary position which could become permanent.

For details and application form, please phone:

Ellen Johnston on
01-928 1444 ext 27.

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Knightsbridge — c. £8,500

A very successful international executive recruitment organisation is seeking a high-calibre secretary/PA to work for one of its London-based directors. First-class typing, shorthand and administrative skills are required, including good organising abilities. Candidates should be aged 25-35, have an attractive personality, and be able to deal with clients, etc in a friendly and efficient manner. Education to 'A' level an advantage. Starting salary will be around £8,500, plus £5.00 weekly luncheon vouchers, 23 days holidays and other benefits.

Please telephone 01-235 6060 in the first instance and ask for Monique Jones.

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With Sh/T. driving, age 25-30, no ties, as total commitment round-the-clock required, languages, graduate an advantage for dynamic Chief Executive in International commercial organisation. Excellent rewards with possibility of world-wide travel. Your CV and hand written comments, your hopes and aspirations for your future.

Write confidentially Box 168, London NW5 1TJ.

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Experienced Secretary required for Company Director in Richmond offices of large exhibition organising company.

Applicants must be able to work on their own initiative, be experienced in taking minutes of meetings, and able to converse with people at all levels.

Fast, accurate typing as well as good shorthand and audio skills are important. The position involves some UK travel and a car driver with a clean driving licence would be preferred.

Please apply in writing with full CV to.

MR I J D Robinson, Director,
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Oriel House, 26 The Quadrant,
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Please write, with CV to the Personnel Department, BDG, 8 Henrietta St, London, WC2.

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The successful candidate must possess a cheerful personality, have the ability to work on their own initiative and be willing to join a busy and friendly secretarial team based in District Headquarters.

Good typing speeds and previous experience are essential. Training will be given on the word processor.

For application form and job description please contact the Personnel Department, University College Hospital, Gower Street, London WC1E 6AU, or telephone 01-387 2374 (24 hour service) quoting reference PL35.

Closing date: 4th May, 1984.

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If you are a bright young secretary who is willing to become involved in responsible work for an interesting portfolio of commercial clients please write with curriculum vitae in the first instance to:

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ANGELA MORTIMER

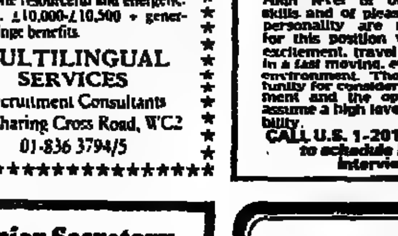
Mayfair Retailers

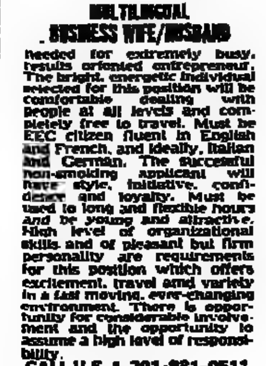
Require experienced Sales person for their shop, selling expensive and highly prestigious goods. A warm personality and pleasant manner are essential. Salary negotiable. For further details telephone:

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needed for extremely busy, results oriented entrepreneur. The bright, energetic individual selected for this position will be comfortable dealing with people at all levels and completely free to travel. Must be EEC citizen fluent in English and French, and ideally, Italian and German. The successful non-smoking applicant will have style, initiative, confidence and loyalty. Must be used to long and flexible hours and be young and attractive. High level of organizational skills and of pleasant but firm personality are requirements for this position which offers excitement, travel and variety in a fast moving, ever-changing environment. There is opportunity for considerable involvement and the opportunity to assume a high level of responsibility.

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Small friendly marketing company require PA sec, 100/60. Minimum age 24, able to use own initiative, will train on computer, wp experience an advantage.

Salary neg
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also on page 23

Property Buyers' Guide

Overseas Property



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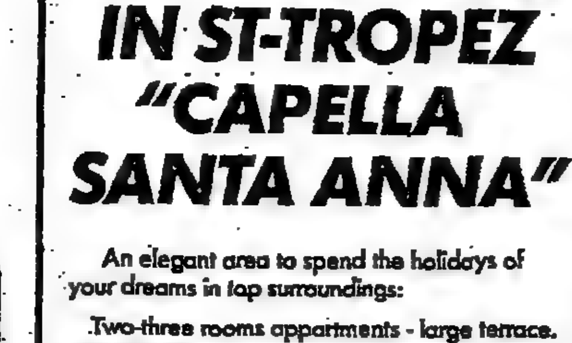
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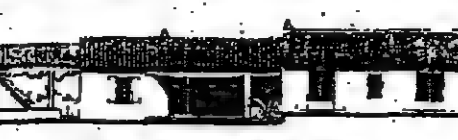


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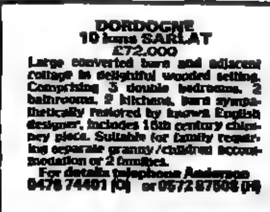
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CHEPSTOW VILLAS, W11. Superb semi-detached period hse in need of modernisation, retaining all period features, 5 beds, 3 receps, conservatory, 2 baths, large kit/breakfast room, utility room, off st/pkg, gdn. Freehold £235,000.

ARUNDEL GARDENS, W11. Exceptional penthouse maisonette in terraced hse with light rooms. Modernised & decorated to high standard with spacious accomm. 3 beds (1 with balcony), 2 baths (1 en suite), large drawing room with doors onto roofterr, study, lux fitt kit open plan with dining room. GFCH, tel entry system, access to comm gdns. 141 yrs lse. £135,000 inc fitt cpts & kit equip.

HOLLAND PARK, W11. Spacious lower ground floor flat in need of some redecoration offers well planned accomm in prime residential area. Dble bed (could be two), k & b, large recep with dining area, large entrance hall, s/facing patio. CH & HW. 995 yrs lse & share of f/hold. £55,000 inc fitt cpts & ctns.

ABBOTSBURY CLOSE, W14. Charming small Georgian-style hse in quiet backwater opp Holland Park. 2 beds, bath, dble recep, fitt kit, flatroof, garage, GFCH. 77 yrs lse (possible availability of freehold). £109,500.

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BELGRAVIA MEWS SW1

A MAGNIFICENT LONG LEASE MEWS HOUSE, in superb position, between Eaton and Chester Squares. Three beds, 3 baths, 2 recep, kit, ROOF TERRACE, GARAGE, full ch, lease 62 years approx. Price £380,000

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AN OUTSTANDING VALUE 2nd floor studio flat in prestige p-built block, in this very central location. Studio room, bath, sep kit, 24 hour porterage, lifts, ch chw, lease 120 years approx. Price £31,950.

EATON SQUARE SW1

A SUPERB GARDEN AND GROUND floor flat, with its own street entrance, overlooking this famous square. Four beds, bath, 2 recep, kit util rm, ch, chw, porterage, lease 10 years approx. Price £75,000

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THE GRAMPIANS, W6 A selection of part/modernised studio flats in this well located block by Shepherds Bush green. CH, lifts, CHW, porter. 91 years. From £20,800

£32,000 – 2 BEDROOMS A very well decorated & modernised 4th floor flat by Hammersmith Broadway in a very popular 1930s block well equipped kitchen, pleasant reception, bath. All amenities. 91 years.

CUL DE SAC, W2 A beautifully modernised, very spacious 4th (top) floor flat in this recently decorated end of terrace house. Reception 20 x 13ft, large kit/breakfast. 2 beds, bath, ind. gas CH, new carpets. 120 years. £52,800.

CRAWFORD ST, W1 A superb newly modernised 2 double bed flat 5 mins Baker St station on 2nd floor of new conversion. Ind. gas CH, new carpets, cooker, refrigerator. 99 years £62,800.

"THE COTTAGE" Heath Rise, SW15 1st time advertised. A charming newly modernised cottage in a superb setting within the grounds of this well known block. 2 beds, reception, kitchen, bath, conservatory, garden, garage. Ind. gas CH. 120 years. £65,000.

WESTMINSTER, SW1 Within the Division Bell in a small quietly situated block, a very well modernised 2nd floor, 2 dble bed flat facing south. Well equipped kit, attractive reception, bathroom, CH, lift, resident porter, CHW. 119 years £78,000.

Portmans 14 Hans Rd London SW3 1RS 01-581 1477 01-589 0337 24 hrs

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OPPOSITE REGENTS PARK Park Road, NW1 completely modernised, quiet, bright, mansion flat. Reception, 2 double bedrooms both with fitted wardrobes. Fully fitted kitchen & bathroom. Lift, porter, indep. gas C.H. 114 yr lease. £63,000 o.n.o. inc. carpets & curtains. Tel: 723 6563 (eves & w'ends)

KENSINGTON Exceptionally beautiful family flat in well run residential block, minutes from shopping facilities off Kensington High St., and overlooking beautiful Holland Park Gardens. Flat is in excellent decorative order throughout with fully equipped modern kitchen, bathrm, sep w.c., 2 bedrms, small box room, hallway and spacious lounge. 72 year lease. £95,000. To view: Tel: 01-937 4622

Thames Island House River view every window! Luxury town house on Eel Pie Island off Twickenham Town Centre. 4 beds, 2 baths, 28 sq ft recep. Wrighton fitted kitchen, patios, flower beds, boat space, slipway, extensive lawns. Faces Ham Fields. Island charms, in 80 years only 3 out of 20 families have moved. Offers above £115,000. Spectacular value. 828 4444 ext 2861 or 892 4787 (eves/weekends)

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AMROTH South Pembrokeshire. Delightful bungalow. Panoramic view o'looking Amroth Bay. Short walk beach. 3 beds, 20ft lounge/diner, fit kit, bath, sep W.C. Det gge. 20ft x 120 terr. Gdn lawn. Ideal retirement or holiday home or letting VP on comp. £28,000. Tel. 0827 830242 (T)

West End W1 Bright & sunny 3rd floor flat in attractive block. Gas C.H. Low outgoings. Moments Oxford St. Lease 94 years. £39,500 Robert Irving & Burns 01-637 0821

BATTERSEA, SW11 2 decent sized 1 bedroomed flats with CH, fitted carpets, fitted cupboards, fitted kitchens and ovens. 1 has 40ft garden. £36,000 each. Viewing from 4 o'clock today. Tel. 01-373 8726

ST JOHN'S WOOD, NW8 4 superb newly mod s/c flats in quiet cobbled mews, each with living rm, bedrm, kitchenette, bathrm, CH. 125 yrs. 8 mins from West End. £35,000 SNELL & CO. 286 6181

DU CANE COURT, SW17. Smart 1 bed flat in splendid 30s block, ultra convenient position. Porterage, lift, CH, CHW, shop. £26,500 o.n.o. (inc carpets and curtains). View today. 01-673 8025 (eve & w'end).

MAIDA VALE W9. Well decorated 2 bedrm mansion flat close to Park. Recep, kit, bathrm, CH, nr tube, shops. 121 yrs. £44,950. Snell & Co. 286 6181.

W11. – Charming 1 bedrm flat with balcony, suit 1st time buyer. Near all amenities. 90yr +. £36,000. 491 6357 day, 221 2495 eve.

N7. 1st & 2nd floor maisonette. 2 beds, study, recep, k & b, gdn, gas c.h. 99yr lease. £45,000. Dillons 482-2277

COOLHURST ROAD, N8. First floor 2 bedrm, recep, k & b flat at £29,000. Tel. Hunters 837 7366.

WEST NORFOLK bungalow, unobstructed country scenes, edge of Hilgay Village, non estate, 2 beds, integral garage, f.f. kitchen, C.H., landscaped garden, N.H.B.C. cert, £29,950. Tel Downham Market (0366) 382269 or Putney (01) 788 7334.

UPPER TULSE HILL 2 bed P/B 2nd (top) flr flat, quiet loc, good dec order, super new bathroom, plenty of storage space, fitt cpts & curts. Gge, close tubes & bus. £27,000. 01-671-1997.

WYE VALLEY. Tintern, very pretty det stone cottage overlooking river. 2 dbl beds, fully mod, CH, ½ mile Tintern Abbey. £31,500. Tel Bourne End 26313 or Windsor 65168.

ELTHAM. Mod p/built 2 bed ft. C/H, garage. Carpets and curtains. £32,750 for quick sale. 01-318 1336 (D), 01-850 6435 (E).

BEXHILL ON SEA. – Holiday flat, 3 beds. £18,000 to cash buyer only. – 01-727 7042.

CHISWICK SPACIOUS 1 Bed flat, close river, exc. cond, long lease. £35,950. Toms & Co. 582 9820.

BLOOMSBURY, WC1. – Impressive 6th flr studio flat with balcony in pop block. Well decorated, lift, ptr, CH, CHW. 92 yr lse. Must be viewed to appreciate. £32,950 ono. Frank Harris & Co. 240 2430.

LIGHT SPACIOUS 2 bed rm flat in quiet tree lined road. 3 mins Harringay Stn. (10 mins City). Fitted kitchen, new carpets, G.C.H. Entry phone. £35,950 ono. Tel. 01-340 1573.

Property also on pages 26 27

South of the Thames

WANDSWORTH COMMON Country living in Wandsworth. A magnificent double fronted detached house, presented to a very high standard. 5 beds, 3 baths, dressing rm, 3 receps, large kit/breakfast rm, clkrm, utility rm, plus small self contained staff flat. C.H. Large attractive garden. FREEHOLD £300,000 ANDREW MILTON & CO. 01-767 0075

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barnard marcus **RODENHURST RD SW4** Superb dble fronted detached house off south side Clapham Common. 5 beds, 2 recp rms, clk rm, utility rm, large kit/dining rm, bath, c.h., loft suitable for conv, 85ftx60ft gdn, gge. £125,000 F/H. Viewing recommended. Sunday only. Tel: 671 1633. 2pm onwards. 720 6820 Clapham Office

SE12 5-year-old Georgian style house in immaculate condition, garage; many luxury features, 4 bedrooms. £92,000. 01-857 0051.

BATTERSEA URSULA ST 3 bedroom house with 40ft garden, double recept, fitted kit/diner, bathrm, modernised & decorated to a very high standard. £85,000 TEL: 01-228 0125

SHEEN, SW14 Charming spacious Vic. cottage in quiet cul de sac. Fully mod, C.H., rewired etc. 24ft recep, lux fit kit. 1st flr bathrm. 2 double beds, fit cupboards. S. facing patio gdn. F.H. £59,900 ono. Tel: 878 7125

DESIGNERS PRETTY TERRACED HOUSE IN FASHIONABLE BOW 3/4 double bedrooms, double recep, full gas c.h., attractive mature garden, very easy access City and West End, adjacent Victoria Park. £58,500 Tel 01-981 8102 (eves/w'end)

DETACHED In ½ acre of very valuable land. Prime Highgate position. 5 bedrooms plus all the usual interior designed features. £550,000 01-360 1045

HENLEY-ON-THAMES Large luxurious flat on river in town, 2 mins stn. 5 dble bedrms, 2 bathrms, 1 en suite, 32 x 26 recep./diner, lge utility, kitchen, entrance hall, entry phone. Best offer over £75,000 for quick sale. Tel. 0491 574943 (after 6pm) 0491 577650 (ans mach)

FARMHOUSE IN LONDON. Southey Rd. SW9. 4 bed, 2 recep, etc. etc. On 2 floors only. Orchard garden, and garage. Needs total modernisation. £64,950 freehold. Tel: 01-741 1179

NR KINGSTON Coombe. Lavishly appointed 4/5 bedrm family home. Totally refurbished, irrespective of cost. 3 separate receps, luxury German kitchen, bright rm, utility rm, 2 marble bathrms, gas CH. Landscaped floodlit gdns. £197,500. Viewthrough QUINTON SCOTT & CO 946 7700

OVERLOOKING WANDSWORTH COMMON A beautifully maintained family house with superb original features. 3/4 recep, 4/5 beds, kit, 2 baths, sep wc, cellar, 90ft west facing gdn. Gas c.h. F'hld £92,500. SULLIVAN THOMAS 767 7711

DENMARK HILL, SE5 Ruskin Court first floor flat with lift and maintained gardens, entryphone, 3 large rooms, bathroom and kitchen, sunny aspect, part dbl glazed, garage, nr Dulwich Village, parks, hospitals, schools, long lease. £29,950 plus £1,500 fixtures, cooker, carpets and curtains. Tel: 01-778 2458 (9 till 10am, or after 8pm.)

HAMPSTEAD N.W.3 THIS IS IT Cool archways. Winding stairs. Giant artists windows. Hanging baskets of jungle flowers. Balconies overlooking sunken lounge. Vast country kitchen with gas aga and high tech equipment. Mellow brick walls in dining rm with central log fire. Sliding glass doors to lge covered sun terrace & barbeque. 3 bedrms each with en suite bathrms. 4th bedrm/study. Master suite with lnge & sth facing sun balcony. Clkrm. At the bottom of the gdn a brick built & pine log lined guest hse with bedrm, shwrm, kit & a giant Jacuzzi pool & sauna. Freehold. £275,000. To view call Mr Raven 01-435 1811 office hours, Balane Plan Ltd. That's it.

MILL HILL Modern large immac p/b flat. 2 beds, recept, f.f. lux kit, clkrm, bath/wc en suite, shower rm, balcony, dble gge, low outgoings, gdn, etc. £89,500. Tel: 906 2524 eves/wkends, 493 5141 day.

MOOR PARK 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 recs, sun lounge, large kitchen, garage, gas CH, big garden. £180,000 freehold. 01-626 7605 (office)

SMART TOWN HOUSE only 1 year old. Ideally situated 5 mins walk common and shops. Dream kit/breakfast rm, cloak rm/loo, laundry rm, 4 beds, master with bath ensuite, 2nd family bath. Lovely bright living rm. Garden and garage. Freehold £92,000. Telephone today 01-947 8139.

HOUSEBOAT Isleworth, nr Richmond. An outstanding 4 bedroom steel-hull house barge for sale including secure mooring. This spacious 1980 conversion on one of the loveliest stretches of the Thames must be seen to be appreciated. £60,000 Tel: 01-568 7892

WEST DULWICH. Modern link-detached house on quiet estate. Excellent decorative order. 3 bedrms, bathrm, lge lounge-dining rm, cloakrm, luxury fitted kitchen. CH, long garage. Secluded patio garden. Close to college, W Dulwich/Victoria 10 mins. Freehold £69,950. Tel. 01-670 8478.

SE16. Close to river, 10 mins walk Tower Bridge. Bovis built mod 2 double beds house. Garage. Gas C.H. freehold. £44,000. Telephone 01-237 4803.

RICHMOND 3 bed Edwardian end of terrace in Selwyn Ave with original features, gas ch, sunny patio garden. £74,000. Phone (day) 631 0906 (eves) 940 0738.

GREENWICH conservation area. 5 bed, detached Victorian house, many orig features. Gas C.H., 3 recp, 2 bath. Pine fitted kitchen. Garden. £92,500. Tel. 01-691 8414.

WIMBLEDON. Ashcombe Road. Completely re-modernised 3 bedroom house. Large garden. Easy access to all transport. £46,000 freehold. 01-388 8390 anytime.

NORTH DULWICH – Superb 5 bed house, 2 recept, 2 baths, huge kit, 125ft gdn. £85,000. Home 267 5429, office 267 6023.

ARCHITECT'S spacious plus sunny Victorian hse, 4 beds, 2 receps, kit/brkfst, 2 bath, attic, play room, grnd flr WC, cellar, S facing gdn. Old Deer Park conservation area. Close Richmond BR plus Tube. Offers C £115,000. Tel 01-948 4867.

PUTNEY. Lovely Edwardian terr family hse by common. Just fully modernised. 4 beds, 2 recep, 2 wcs, kit/brk, bath, utility, gas ch, clr, 40ft gdn. £98,000 inc fid cpts throughout. 01-788 8219.

A BARNES BARGAIN. P.B. 3 bedrm apt grd/floor. Security doors, resd porter. Fitted kitchen. £49,500. 01-878 7371 (eves).

CLAPHAM. Lux spacious P.B., 2 dble bed flat in secluded gardens. South facing living rm, fitted kit, bath sep wc, g.c.h. Car port, entry phone. £39,950. Tel: 674 6294.

DENMARK HILL, SE5. large studio flat, 20ft kit/din, 12ft bed/lounge, bath, WC, hall gdn gge. 10yr lse. Immac. £22,000. 01-735 8202 eve.

CLAPHAM COMMON, spacious P/B 2 bed flat, elegant rooms, G. C/H. Private parking. £47,500. 622 5564.

VILLAGE CLOSE TO Common lux flat, beautiful 30ft split level drawing rm, 2 bed, k & b, C.H., private gdn, gge, entry phone. £68,000 Tel. 01-947 1676.

DULWICH, CLOSE VILLAGE. F/h det. house 4½ beds, g.c.h., lge lounge, gge, c/port. £74,000. Tel. 01-693 2721.

RIVERSIDE BUNGALOW built 1979. 2 beds, lounge, breakfast rm, fully fit kit, bathrm, garage, scenic views across river Thames. Offers in excess of £110,000. Walton on Thames 226403.

PIMLICO MEWS HOUSE. – New luxury conversion roof garden, 2 bed, lounge, k and b, store, free parking. 117 yrs lse, view noon today. £120,000. Tel 01-821 0391.

SW1/PIMLICO. – Charming flat in unusually interesting new conversion: 1 double bed, recept, lounge, sunny terrace, gas ch; 125-year lease. £48,000. – 834 0178.

1 MIN HYDE PARK, W2. – New quality 2 bed flat, fully equip kitch, bath, sep shower, roof terr, Lift, off St park, new lse, £75,000 inc, new cpts. No agents. Tel: 01-603 4983.

DRAYTON GADENS, S.W.10 Attractive 3 bed, 2 recpt. Mansion flat, c.h.w., c.h., porter, lift, refurb bldg, 85 yr lease, £93,000. 439 8611 (373 0969, evenings).

W2. Charming mews maisonette. 8 years' lease. £14,000. Outgoings £3,350 p.a. incl. 723 0557 (office) or 789 7568 (home).

CHISWICK. 3 beds, bath, sep W.C., Thru recep, lge kit/breakfast rm., dry cellar, C.H. S.W. gdn £76,000. 01 995 9070.

FULHAM. Charming fully mod hse in pop street. 3 beds, 2 lge bath, dbl recep, dining, kit/utility, GCH, fid carpets. Pretty 50ft gdn. £89,500 FH. Tel: 01-731 5617.

FULHAM Modernised house with new roof, double recep, din rm, kit, 3 bed, bath, sep W.C., garden, gas ch, close Tube, for quick sale f/hold £86,000 736 7907 (eves only).

ELM PARK GDNS. Bright p.b. 4th flr dble bedrm'd flat, recep, k & b, lease 92 yrs, lge com gdns. £46,500. Tel: 01-351 2524 eves.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE A terraced investment on 6 floors ideal for letting or conversion into flats. Freehold and vacant possession. £450,000 – No Agents. TEL DAY 01-584 0507

CHALK FARM, NW3. – Spacious beautifully decorated modernised ground floor flat, C/H, 1 bedroom, lounge, kitchen, bathroom. £33,900. Tel: 01-722 0859 or 278 4837 (work).

W. HAMPSTEAD. A touch of class. Superbly converted 3 bed gdn. flat, 2 baths, CH, 22ft living rm., fit. kit., carpets, many extras. Private sale, 99 yr. lse. £67,500. 381 0750 or 385 6085.

HIGHBURY, N5. – 3-bed spacious and light maisonette, nr fields; gas ch and hw, carpets, curtains, large bookshelves incl; quiet cul-de-sac: £48,900. – 01-226 3992.

NOTTING HILL GATE. Extremely spacious basement flat. 3 beds, living rm, lge kit/dining area, 2 baths, largely modernised. 84 yr lease. £56,500. 01-229 8042.

BEAUTIFUL 3rd floor conversion in period house overlooking gardens in Knightsbridge Square. Spacious recep, dble bed, kitchen, luxury bathroom, large storage room. 125 yr lease, low outgoings. £67,500. Tel. (office hours) 01-235 0173.

HOLBORN, WC1. 5 mins walk Fleet St. Extremely central Studio flat for sale. 91 years lease. Good decorative order, security, modern block. £29,750. Tel 242 8275. Browett Taylor. Ref BJT.

NORTH KENSINGTON, 4 storey freehold family house comprising 4 bed, 2 recep, 2 bath, ch, plus separate basement flat. £116,000. Tel 960 5638 (weekdays) 229 7925.

HARROW HILL. Fully modernised 19th-century character cottage. 2 bed, large lounge/diner, gas ch, fully fitted kitchen, small garden. £47,000 for quick sale. 01-954 1901.

GROSVENOR SQ (off). Elegant 6th floor flat in block with all services. 1 dble bed, recep, kit & bath. 50 yrs. £48,500 to incl entire contents. Allen Bates & Co. 499 1666.

W.11 KENSINGTON PARK GARDENS Bright well designed pied a terre with large front patio. Reception 23 x 11ft. Bed 12 x 7ft. Access communal gardens. 95 yrs lease CH and entry-phone, perfect 1 person flat. £48,000 ono. view today. 01-727 4471.

W8. Family house, quiet cul-de-sac, 90ft w-facing mature gdn. Flexible accom. 4/5 beds. Huge 'L' shaped recep. Utility rm/cellar, gas C/H. Possibility expansion into big loft. Nr Cent/Pic metro. tube. £128,000. Tel: 01-602-3951.

BELSIZE PARK. Light spacious stylish apartment. 3 beds, recep, dining, k&b. 140 yr lease. low o/hds, gas c.h. good location, carpets & curtains inc. £74,500 for quick exchange. 01-722-6935 or 586 4606.

REGENTS PARK, NW1. In purpose built block, recep, kitch, bthrm, 1 (dbl) bdrm, gas CH, entry phone, lifts, porterage, secure gge space, L/hold 78yrs, £45,000 inc curts & cpts. Tel: Sunday/eves 935 6891.

50FT STEEL NARROW BOAT central London mooring. Fully fitted, mains electricity, tel, ch, Lister SR3 engine. £12,000. 01 724 3554 (eves).

BELSIZE PK, NW3 £58,500 bright, 1st flr 2 bed flat, mod PB small block, S facing balc, gge, lge C gdns, lovely outlook. 91yr lse private. 435 1982.

ANGEL N1. Unusual unmod early Vic house on 3 floors. No garden, freehold. £48,000. 01-359 4454.

MAIDA VALE. Spacious luxury 3 bed 1st floor balcony flat, cash sale. £59,500 ono. 01-286 2963.

KENSINGTON. 2 bed lux flat, spacious recept, k&b, individual gas c.h. Lease 93 years. £77,500. Tel: 01-352 6579 anytime.

GRAND VINTAGE DEC. Double fronted Hampton Hill/Teddington, 4 dble bed rms. Handsome drawing & dining rm, kitchen/family rm supreme. Bath & shower rms. G.C.H. Fine deep third acre lawned gardens. Curved drive. Dble garage & parking. £160,000 F/H ono. Barnes & Barnes 940 0093 or 943 3966.

LONDON & SUBURBAN

MORELAND COURT, Lyndale Avenue, NW2. Quiet 2nd flr flat. 2 beds. £48,000. Tel: 0732 453240.

LAND FOR SALE

20 ACRES F/H agricultural/grass land, road frontage, between Windsor/Maidenhead, would split, for quick sale. (0628) 28717.

PROPERTY WANTED

SUSSEX, Surrey or Hants. Unfurn country house wanted. Min 1 yr. Co let if required. Chiddingly (0825) 872422.

North of the Thames

Country Property

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

All change at Essex now that prices are taking off

by Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Essex has long been regarded as a poor relation to other commuter counties because of its less effective rail and road network, and the difference in its attractiveness – not only for commuters, it must be said – can be seen in the level of property prices compared, say, with Surrey.

Recently, however, changes have been taking place, and suddenly the roads are greatly improved to all parts of the county. Its trunk roads are better and bypasses avoid the big towns and cities with the exception of bottlenecks at Chelmsford and Braintree. The M11 and now the M25 orbital motorway, which is rapidly being joined up, are providing quick and efficient access.

The result is that Essex is seeing something like a property boom, and with demand exceeding supply for quality houses the shortage of property is accompanied by increasing prices.

Abbotts, agents specializing in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk, say prices are going up at all levels from the smallest terrace cottage to the more expensive properties.

They quote the recent sale by auction of Elms Farm, West Hanningfield, near Chelmsford. Set in 10.5 acres, the sixteenth century farmhouse with seventeenth century additions is Grade II listed, unspoilt but in need of substantial renovation. Tentatively valued by others at £75,000 to £85,000 it was eventually offered for auction by Abbotts with a reserve of £95,000 and was sold for £126,500.

Demand also resulted in the initial guide price being exceeded for two modern properties in the £100,000-plus bracket – a spacious detached house in Norsey Road, Billericay, sold for £108,000, while another with a one-acre garden, in the village of Stock, sold for £117,500 compared with the guide price of £115,000.

Abbotts' Chelmsford office are now offering for sale Hill Place, Wickham Bishops, a Grade II listed country residence in just under 2.5 acres, with extensive accommodation and a large swimming pool for £165,000.

Strutt and Parker's Chelmsford office reports a "distinct lack of quality cottages and country houses", particularly to the west and south of Chelmsford, and have seen a growing demand for properties this year. One nine miles north-west of Chelmsford, which went on the market in January, was viewed by six prospective purchasers within two days, solicitors were instructed in three days, and contracts were exchanged within two weeks.

Strutt and Parker say the most acute shortage is for 3/4 bedroomed cottages and small farmhouses in the £70,000-£100,000 range and for well located country houses in the £200,000-£400,000 bracket.

Savills, too, have been taking a close look at the market in Essex. John Gibson, at their Chelmsford office, recalls last year as "not a boom year, though the price of country houses certainly increased faster than the national average". Now, however, "the demand for country houses and cottages is stronger than ever while the supply of houses coming on to the market is reduced", and he is predicting that 1984 will see "considerable" price rises.

Mr Gibson says there are at present virtually no true country houses in rural Essex in the £150,000-£250,000 range, and those that are available are largely overvalued. One reason for overvaluation, he says, is because some agents do not have enough knowledge of comparable properties.

In addition he believes some agents are increasing their valuation to obtain instructions on sales and says this "dubious" practice is becoming more common with fewer houses coming on to the market and more agents competing for them. This overvaluation, he adds, should not be confused with an "optimistic valuation" given because prices are rising – but such a valuation should be explained to the house owner.

Savills are offering The Old Rectory, Beauchamp Roding, Ongar, mostly eighteenth century but with sixteenth century origins, in the heart of the Rodings, for around £215,000. It has 6/7 bedrooms, a swimming pool and about three acres. On the edge of Epping Forest, Arabin House, High Beach, Loughton, dates from the early nineteenth century, has eight bedrooms, four bathrooms, and four reception rooms. During the last few years the property, which stands in nearly 11 acres, has been modernized. Savills are seeking offers over £500,000.

Further out, towards the Suffolk border, lies Dedham, very much Constable country, and Bairstow Eves' country department at Chelmsford are offering Mill House, Dedham, closely associated with Constable, at £160,000. The house belonged to his sister, Louisa, whom he visited frequently and was originally associated with Dedham Mill. The Grade II Mill House dates from the sixteenth century with additions in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, has been restored and modernized in the last five years and has a brew house, coach house and dating in its grounds of two acres.

Also in Dedham, Bairstow Eves are offering the eighteenth century Muniment House, which requires renovation, and an adjoining cottage, for £56,500. Listed Grade II, both properties are of timber frame and brick construction, and the cottage needs total modernization and refurbishment.

Mill House, Dedham, in the heart of Constable country, which belonged to the painter's sister, Louisa, and which he frequently visited, is for sale at £160,000 through Bairstow Eves at Chelmsford.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Catch your salmon – for £37,000

Fishing rights on the lower Birgham and lower Carham fishings on the River Tweed in Berwickshire are for sale by Fishing and Sporting Holidays Ltd through Savills of Brechin. Rights for three rods are being offered on a time-ownership basis from the autumn, giving the buyer the exclusive right to fish for salmon, grilse and sea trout for fixed fortnightly periods.

The cost of a time-ownership unit – one spring and one autumn week in perpetuity – ranges from £7,500 to £37,500.

Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch, is to sell his Regency house in Lymington, Hampshire, for around £200,000 through Knight Frank and Rutley and Jackson and Jackson of Lymington. The sale of his property, Woodend, is partly the result of boundary changes to his constituency, which is now wholly within Dorset and no longer includes Lymington. The house has three reception rooms, three bedroom suites and fourt further bedrooms. The two acres of grounds display items of Mr Adley's collection of railway memorabilia, including level crossing gates and a *full-sized signal*, but they are not included in the sale.

Ancient farm

A listed farmhouse near Petworth, West Sussex, is on the market for the first time in 400 years. It is believed to have been a yeoman's house in the sixteenth century, and is no longer needed by the Leconfield Estate and requires modernization. Peacocks Farmhouse was originally timber-framed but was later re-fronted in stone. It has two reception rooms and three bedrooms, an inglenook fireplace and exposed beams. The Petworth office of Smiths Gore are seeking offers above £100,000. The sale includes a range of buildings with potential for conversion – and three-quarters of an acre of land.

Two detached cottages on the Cowdray estate in West Sussex, both said to be "ripe for conversion", have been auctioned through King and Chasemore. A three-bedroomed cottage in Didling hamlet near Midhurst, fetched £56,000, and the second – also three bedroom – in open country side near Midhurst, sold for £65,000.

A farm sale in Hampshire last week shows that there is still a high demand for commercial, we.. maintained, quality farms within easy reach of London despite the uncertainty caused by the EEC common agricultural policy. Agents Austin and Wyatt sold Andlers Ash Farm, Liss, near Petersfield, which has 272 acres of grade 2 and 3 land and a friesian herd, for £730,000 at auction, equivalent to £2,683 per acre overall or £2,851 per ploughable acre.

Once owned by Mick Jagger, the Rolling Stones singer, Stargroves, near Newbury, Berkshire, is for sale. Knight, Frank and Rutley (through its Hungerford office) and Christopher Stephenson International are seeking more than £500,000 for the freehold of the Victorian mansion, which is set in 37 acres of parkland. Built around 1877, and with two towers surmounted by a castellated parapet, the building is listed Grade II. Accommodation includes a galleried hall, three reception rooms, five principal and five other bedrooms, with an additional 12 rooms in the north and south towers and an adjoining flat.

Invest in a Rolls

The spectacular Hendre estate near Monmouth, home of the Rolls family since 1767 and now a leisure complex with a golf course as well as an agricultural and residential estate, is to be sold this summer if a partner cannot be found to help develop the leisure side of the business.

Humberts – with their leisure division, Humberts Landplan – have been instructed by the owner, John Harding-Rolls, to seek a partner for a joint venture to exploit the estate's potential. Mr Harding-Rolls is looking for a corporate or private partner, or an investment syndicate, to join him.

If he fails to find one, the estate – 1,450 acres of farmland and forestry with 36 cottages and the main house set in a 300-acre championship golf course and leisure complex – will be auctioned in June or July, probably for between £3m and £4m.

The house, originally a hunting lodge, has been extended by successive generations. John Alan Rolls, the first Baron Llangattock, was an enthusiastic bibliophile and he commissioned the fine Cedar Library form Sir Aston Webb, the architect who built the facade of Buckingham Palace and Admiralty Arch. Charles Rolls, co-founder of the Rolls-Royce motor company, was the son of the first Lord Llangattock.

There is detailed planning consent for the use of the house as a hotel and conference centre and for a further wing of letting bedrooms. The estate has 10 period cottages suitable for a time-share scheme, subject to refurbishment, and the estate has detailed planning consent for a holiday village of 52 time-share cottages and provision for squash, tennis and as an integrated leisure operation.

Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby, managing partner of Humberts Landplan, said that the range of joint venture operations was flexible, and that The Hendre had great potential. Such a development is likely to cause a stir in Monmouth, but not quite the commotion caused by Charles Rolls when he once arrived in the town at midnight driving a Peugeot, the first car the local people had seen.

Across Britain in Northamptonshire, Humberts Landplan are involved in a somewhat different deal – selling on behalf of Mrs Stuart Symington the Guilsborough Wildlife Park. The park includes a Regency house in 30 acres of gardens and parkland, where more than 400 animals and birds of 70 varieties can be seen. The park is on offer for £275,000-plus, including livestock such as lions, tigers, leopards, monkeys and seals. The livestock alone are valued at £20,000. Mrs Symington explains that she is sad to be retiring from Guilsborough after 13 years, but feels, that "a modest injection of capital and some youthful enthusiasm would take the wildlife part to new heights."

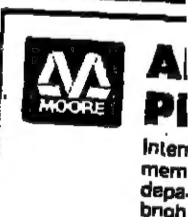
More than 60,000 people last year visited the park, where one of the main attractions is Kalli, the Symingtons' seven-year-old crossbred Collie bitch, which has foster-mothered an astonishing variety of cubs, including lions, leopards, pumas, arctic foxes, badgers and tigers.

C.W.

Country Property

Property also on page 25

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 **Ceefax AM.** News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins.

6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 6.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18; Mike Smith with the new Top Twenty between 7.55 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.33.

9.00 **Battle of the Planets.** Animated science fiction series 9.20 **Look Back With Noakes.** John Noakes and his dog, Shep, tour north west England by canal (r) 9.50 **The All New Popeye Show** (r). 10.00 **Why Don't You. . ?** Ideas from Cardiff for bored youngsters. 10.20 **Ivor the Engine** (r). 10.30 **Play School,** presented by Stuart McGugan.

10.55 **Gharbar.** Magazine programme for Asian women. Among the items is Taj Hasnain talking to Aasha Bawa and Tulsi Thukral, a widow and widower, about bereavement. 11.20 **Ceefax.** 12.20 **Seven Days That Changed The World.** Tom Fleming with another religious story for Holy Week.

12.30 **News After Noon** with Philip Hayton and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Ian MacCaskill 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report follow by news headlines with subtitles). 1.00 **Pebble Mill at One.** Among the guests are snooker commentator Ted Lowe; cook Michael Smith; and the Flying Pickets 1.45 **Gran** (r). 1.50 **Stop-Go!** (r).

2.00 **Cartoon:** Tom and Jerry 2.05 **Film: Frankie and Johnny** starring Elvis Presley as a riverboat entertainer who should have joined gamblers' anonymous. Directed by Frederick de Cordova. 3.30 **Daffy Duck's Easter Special.**

3.55 **Play School,** presented by Iain Lauchlan 4.20 **The Perils of Penelope Pitstop** (r) 4.40 **Rentaghost** (r) 5.05 **John Craven's Newsround.** 5.10 **Break Point.** Part three of the drama serial about junior tennis players (r).

5.40 **Sixty Minutes** includes news at 5.40 from Moira Stuart; weather at 5.54; regional magazines at 5.55; and news headlines at 6.38.

6.40 **Young Musician of the Year 1984.** Humphrey Burton introduces the semi-finalists in the brass section.

7.15 **Film: The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw** (1958) starring Kenneth More and Jayne Mansfield. Lighthearted western with More playing a timid English gunsmith who becomes the most feared man in Tombstone. Directed by Raoul Walsh.

9.00 **News** with John Humphrys.

9.25 **Q.E.D. – The Quest for Mastermind's Brain.** Mastermind champion, ex-London underground train driver Chris Hughes, is taken on an exploration of his brain (see Choice).

9.55 **Sportsnight** introduced by Harry Carpenter. Boxing and snooker on offer tonight with the George Wimpey ABA semi-finals from Preston and a preview of the World Snooker championship with a look at the relatively unknown competitors who have to pre-qualify for the big event.

11.10 **Remington Steele** investigate the death of a Japanese in a motoring accident. His brother believes that it was murder, a conclusion that is reached by the redoubtable duo of private detectives.

12.00 **Seven Days That Changed The World.** A repeat of the programme shown at 12.20.

12.10 **News headlines and weather.**

TV-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain,** presented by John Stapleton and Nick Owen. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and headlines at 9.00; sport at 6.35 and 7.35; exercises at 6.50 and 8.55; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; cartoon at 7.25; Eric Morecambe at 7.40; part one of the video of the Michael Jackson story at 7.55; Eric Morecambe's magic moments at 8.10; Eve Pollard's gossip column at 8.35; and 9.00 **Roland Goes East.**

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **Thames news headlines** followed by **Sesame Street.** 10.25 **Film: Laurel and Hardy in We Faw Down*** (1928) in which they join a card school unbeknown to their wives. Directed by Leo McCarey. 10.50 **Northeast America.** Author James Michener traces the influence of the millions of immigrants to the northeastern part of the United States. 11.40 **Sport Billy.** Cartoon adventures of the world's greatest athlete (r).

12.00 **Atarah's Music.** Atarah Ben-Tovim gets a tune from a flute. 12.10 **Sounds Like a Story.** Mark Wynter with the tale of The Cowherd and the Alphorn (r). 12.30 **The Sullivans.**

1.00 **News.** 1.20 **Thames news** with Robin Houston. 1.30 **A Plus Holy Week.** The second of three programmes about the Church and politics. In the discussion are John Selwyn Gummer MP; Frank Field MP; and Dr Digby Anderson, director of the Social Affairs Unit. 2.00 **Take the High Road.** The mysterious new tenant arrives at the Dower House.

2.30 **A Country Practice.** Drama in the Australian outback. 3.30 **Sons and Daughters.** Patricia makes a desperate bid to keep John under her control.

4.00 **Atarah's Music.** A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 **Aubrey.** Cartoon adventures of an odd inventor (r). 4.20 **Letty.** Brian owns up to stealing 4.50 **Razzmatazz.** Pop magazine programme presented by Alastair Pirrie and Clare Grogan.

5.15 **Emmerdale Farm.** Amos Brearly tries his hand at a little do-it-yourself and fails miserably

5.45 **News** 6.00 **Thames News.**

6.25 **Help!** Viv Taylor Gee with news of Community Service Volunteers.

6.35 **Crossroads.** Angela Reece has a spine-chilling premonition.

7.00 **The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady.** Episode eight: August. Ernest Smith makes an unexpected call on Edith and their friendship develops.

7.30 **Coronation Street.** Deirdre finds out about husband Ken's involvement with an 'agony aunt'.

8.00 **This is Your Life.** Eamonn Andrews lies in wait to emotionally mug another unsuspecting worthy.

9.00 **Mr Palfrey of Westminster.** The first of a four-part drama starring Alec McCowen as a counter espionage expert (see Choice).

10.00 **News** followed by Thames news headlines.

10.30 **A Celebration of British Fashion** introduced by Diane Keen from the Harrogate Centre. A gala event in aid of the mentally handicapped, presented in association with Marks and Spencer.

11.30 **The Gypsy Warriors.** World War Two adventures in occupied France.

12.25 **Buried Meanings.** Gill Nevill asks theologian Keith Ward and author Mary Craig 'can we still believe in heaven and hell?'

Alec McCowen: Mr Palfrey of Westminster (ITV, 9.00 pm)

CHOICE

● The Michael Bettaney affair has given **MR PALFREY OF WESTMINSTER** (ITV, 9.00pm) a dimension of topicality that nobody could have dreamt of when the transmission date was fixed. Its background is a sudden reorganization in the Security Service because Something has Gone Terribly Wrong. Mr Palfrey, a master of the art of counter-espionage, who has just netted a salmon on a fishing holiday, is summoned back to Westminster to gaff a suspected traitor. Ostensibly he is promoted, but all the signs point in a different direction. He returns to only two-thirds of a secretary, a depressing office dominated by a ghastly painting, and a no less dominating new security co-ordinator whom he rightly categorizes as "another Iron Lady." This new, four-part thriller has a vein of sharp humour running through it. Palfrey himself has marginally more charm than Guinness's George Smiley, and Alec McCowen plays him to perfection.

● Just as BBC Television's *Mastermind* re-routed the career of its taxi-driver winner Fred Housego, so it now promises to open up a new stretch of track for a former train driver Chris Hughes, last year's champion. **THE QUEST FOR MASTERMIND'S BRAIN** (BBC 1, 9.25pm) puts Mr Hughes back in the sinister leather chair, reunites him with Magnus Magnusson, and finds him uncharacteristically saying "pass" to such questions as: what does your brain look like, sliced down the middle? The rest of this jokey edition of QED finds the substantial Mr Hughes, still sporting the Heavy Freight GWR emblem on the familiar blue pullover, launched into a world of X-ray machines, ultra-sound gadgetry (I'm happy to say you definitely aren't pregnant", says the man who is running something over his tummy), and – ultimately – a nuclear magnetic resonance where the quest, both for a picture of the Hughes cerebrum and for his new identity as a television performer, ends. And, on both counts, ends successfully.

● **GREAT STATE OCCASIONS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED** (Radio 4, 9.15pm) is a leg-pull from BBC Scotland: an outside broadcast of George IV's visit to Edinburgh 162 years ago. Possibly the peak of Georgian wireless achievement, says the BBC. While not quite the peak of Elizabethan radio fun, Patrick Rayer's diverting half-hour is ambitiously conceived whimsy.

Peter Davalle

BBC 2

6.05 **Open University:** Gibbon: The Ruins of Rome. 6.30 Religion: The Roaring Silence. 6.55 Cyanide, Crystals and Co-ordination. 7.20 Contrast in Musical Language. 7.45 Microfossils. Ends at 8.10.

9.00 **Ceefax.**

4.05 **Film. The Great American Broadcast*** (1941) starring Alice Faye, Jack Oakie and John Payne. A musical drama about three performers trying to make a success during the early days of sound broadcasting. Directed by Archie Mayo.

5.35 **News** summary with subtitles.

5.40 **Film: A Man Alone** (1955) starring Ray Milland and Mary Murphy. Gunfighter Wesley Steele discovers the wreckage and the dead bodies from a stage-coach hold-up and accidentaly kills a law officer. While on the run he finds out who is responsible for the robbery and killings. Competent supporting cast includes Lee Van Cleef and Raymond Burr. Directed by Ray Milland.

7.15 **Swallows and Amazons Forever!** Part two of The Big Six. Police constable Tedder's suspicions mount as to the guilt of the Death and Glory boys when he discovers that they seem to have come into money. But are they really responsible for the boat yard break-ins? Only Dick, Dot and Tom seem to think that they are innocent.

7.40 **Karen Silkwood Deceased.** Philip Tibbenham re-tells the story that he investigated for Panorama about the young woman who died in mysterious circumstances as she tried to draw attention to hazards at the plutonium plant where she worked.

8.30 **Top Gear** investigates the pros and cons of driving on the Continent.

9.00 **On Stage** introduced by Glyn Worsnip. Lionel Blair, Janet Brown, Leslie Phillips, Doris Hare and John Junkin recall some of the funny things that happened to them on the way to theatre and on stage.

9.30 **Play: A Woman Calling,** by Anne Devlin. A psychological thriller about Laura who has spent three years in a Belfast hospital, dependant on drugs and unable to sleep with the light out. She returns to the scene of her terror and turns to a psychologist to help her forget. Starring Tony Doyle and Paula Hamilton.

10.20 **Treasures from Korea.** A Chronicle Special that previews the exhibition opening at the British Museum in May.

11.00 **Newsnight.**

11.45 **Photo Assignment.** Terence Donovan with a nude assignment in the Lancashire Pennines(r).

12.10 **Open University:** The Poison Process. 12.35 The Nigerian Civil War. 1.00 Sexual Identity. Ends at 1.30.

CHANNEL 4

2.30 **Racing from Newmarket.** Brough Scott introduces live coverage of four races – the April Maiden Stakes (2.35); the Ladbroke European Free Handicap (3.10); the Earl of Sefton Stakes (3.40); and the Abernant Stakes (4.10).

4.30 **Cartoon Carnival** presented by Ray Alan

5.00 **Countdown.** Yesterday's winner of the anagrams and mental arithmetic competition is challenged by Alison Hepworth, a Liverpudlian student living in Oxford.

5.30 **Enthusiasts.** The final programme of the series presented by Martin Burrows that looks at people who spend all their time and energies in one particular direction features Lindy Wright – Agate, Slip and Mochaware – who became interested in pottery ever since she saw Zimbabwean women making and firing red clay pots.

6.00 **Passage to Britain.** Part one: A Nation of Immigrants? A new 12-part series looking at the history of immigration in this country. This opening programme examines the background and history and in particular the Imperial Act of 1914 under which all citizens of the Colonies had a right to come and live in the United Kingdom. Among the contributors to tonight's programme are Enoch Powell, Paul Boateng and George Mikes. The narrator is Miriam Margolyes.

6.30 **The Munsters*** Herman becomes jealous when his son, Eddie, has a crush on Zombo, the host of a children's horror programme.

7.00 **Channel Four News.**

7.50 **Comment.** The political slot this week is taken by Jeremy Hanley, Conservative MP for Richmond and Barnes.

8.00 **Brookside.** Liz, Alan's new companion, is a source of interest to neighbours in the Close.

8.30 **Diverse Reports.** Weekly current affairs programme which takes a look at the news from an alternative angle. Among today's items is a report on the Baby Rusk business.

9.00 **Winners.** A documentary that follows the judging process through to the prizegiving of the What a Picture photography competition held last year.

10.00 **Film: 1+1=3** (1979) starring Adelheid Arndt, Dominik Graf and Christoph Quest. A comedy about an actress who becomes pregnant and undecided about two men – one the father, the other, one who is desperately protective of the unborn child. Directed by Heidi Genée.

11.35 **Voices.** Roy Porter chairs a discussion between Kurt Hubner, Bill Newton-Smith and Robert M Young on the subject Scientific Reason: Truth or Illusion?

12.35 **Ian Breakwell's Continuous Diary.**

12.40 **Closedown.**

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing: Weather.
6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Shipping.
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 New summary. 6.45 Prayer for the Day. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport.
8.43 Bill the Galactic Hero by Harry Harrison (3). 8.57 Weather.
9.00 News.
9.05 Midweek: Libby Purves with Studio guests.†
10.00 News; Gardeners' Question time.
10.30 The Lamentations and the city. 3: Bristol. With Canon David Isitt.†
10.45 Daily Service.†
11.00 News; Travel; Flame Lily of Africa. Bernard Jackson reports on a recent visit to Zimbabwe.
11.48 Through my Window. The fifth of six programmes in which busy people pause awhile and consider the view from their windows: Norman Thelwell.
12.00 News; You and Yours.
12.27 Curlew in Autumn by Edward Boyd (2). Thriller, starring David Ashton (r). 12.55 Weather; Programme News. 1.00 The World at One: News. The Archers.
2.00 News; Woman's Hour. Includes an interview with Joshua Rifkin, well-known for his performances of the piano rags of Scott Joplin, and a specialist in baroque and Renaissance music.
3.00 Afternoon Theatre: Macker's Riots, by Richard Hill, and Alan McDonald. A Scouse shaggy-dog story is offered by a young Liverpool black to his solicitor as an alternative to a plea of guilty. He has been charged with assaulting a police officer with a tin of beans. With Paul Barber as Macker.†
3.47 I Got Up Out of my Seat. What happened to one person who attended a Billy Graham rally.
4.00 News; File on 4.
4.40 Story Time: The Mind of Mr J G Reeder. Stories by Edgar Wallace "The Stealer of Marble" (1).
5.00 PM: News Magazine. 5.50 Shipping Forcast. 5.55 Weather.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News.
6.30 My Music A musical panel game, chaired by Steve Race.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 How to be . . . a Spy. Patrick Hannan gives some career advice.
7.45 Fat Man on the Roman Road – The City of Ghosts and Dragons: York to Durham. The sixth of Tom Vernon's eight repeated programmes.
8.15 Anthony Hopkins talking about Music.†
8.45 Unfinished Business. Swiss psychiatrist, Dr Elisabeth Kubler Ross talks about her work with the terminally ill.
9.15 Great State Occasions You May Have Missed. Another in a very occasional series of rare and unlikely treasures from the BBC Sound Archives. Tonight – an outside broadcast first heard in 1822 . . .
9.45 Kaleidoscope. Topics include the film The Ballad of Narayama; the BBC 2 series The Mind of a Murderer.
10.15 A Book at Bedtime. Three stories by William Trevor. Abridged for Radio 1: 'Sunday Drinks'. Read by Denys Hawthorne.
10.30 The World Tonight: Headlines.
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 The Family Firm: From Sheffield to Chicago. A feature about the factories and shops of Thorntons' who manufacture sweets.
12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. 12.15 Close. Shipping Forecast.

ENGLAND: As above except: 6.25-6.30 Weatherr; Travel. 1.55-2.00pm Listening Corner. 5.50-5.55 (continued). 11.00 Study on 4: Caribbean Links. 11.30-12.10 Open University.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Your Midweek Choice: part one. Mozart's Divertimento No 5, K 187; Couperin's Passacaglia (Landowska, harpsichord); Beethoven's Andante and Variations WOO No 2 (Mayer/Rohmann); Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Guitar Concerto No 1 (Romero/English Chamber Orchestra).† 8.00 News.
8.05 Midweek Choice: part two. Fauré's Ballade Op 19 (Collard/Toulouse Capital Orchestra); Strauss's Deutsche Motette Op 62; and Wolf-Ferrari's suite Jewels of the Madonna.† 9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composers: The New England School. Converse's Endymion's Narrative: romance for orchestra; Gilbert's Mazurka (Frager, piano); and Foote's String Quartet in D.†
10.00 Piano Duet: James Anagnoson and Leslie Kinton play Stravinsky's Three Easy Pieces; Five Easy Pieces; Ravel's Mother Goose Suite; and Mendelssohn's Allegro Brillant Op 92.†
10.40 Mravinsky conducts Shostakovich: the Symphony No 6.†
11.10 Coull String Quartet: Haydn's Quartet in C Op 20 No 2: and Christopher Brown's Quartet No 2.†
12.00 Martinu and Berwald: the BBC Scottish SO, with Dennis Lee (piano). Sinfoniett Giocoso; and Berwald's Sinfonie Capricieuse.† 1.00 News.
1.05 Off the Beaten Track: Miles Kington with some rejected or unofficial "treasures" on record.
1.30 Matinee Musicale: BBC Concert Orchestra, with John Williams (trumpet) and Iain Ledingham (piano). Chabrier's Joyeuse Marche; Howarth's Amazing Mr Arban; Ethel Smyth's Two interlinked French folk melodies; Riisager's Concertino Op 29; Amos's Marigold Garden: Cats have come to tea; Delius's La Calinda; and Wilfred Josephs's Concerto for Light Orchestra. Also Enesco's Legende.†
2.35 Recital Allegri String Quartet play Crusell's Divertimento: Wolf's Italian Serenade; and Bliss's Quintet.†
3.15 Brahms: London Philharmonic play the Symhony No 2.†
4.00 Choral Evensong: live, from Westminster Abbey.†
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
6.30 Debut: recital by Richard Lester (cello) with Susan Tomes (piano). Beethoven's Sonata in A Op 69.
7.00 Catching Thoughts: Colin Blakemore in a discussion with Dr Pier Roland, of the Bispebjerg Hospital in Copenhagen.
7.30 Delius, Mahler and Strauss: BBC symphony Orchestera, under Pritchard, with Brigitte Fassbaender (mezzo). Part one. Delius's Paris-Song of a Great City; and Summer Night on the River. And Mahler's Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen.†
8.15 Six Continents: Foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC.
8.35 Concert: part two. Strauss's An Alpine Symphony.†
9.35 Camerararities: Michael Hordern reads one of Colin McLaren's six vignettes. Question of Perspective (r).
9.45 Early Music Network 1983/4: Recital by Barthold Kuijken (flute) and Johann Sonnleitner (harpsichord). Bach's Sonata in A BWV 1032; Flute Partita in A minor BWV 1013; and Sonata in B minor BWV 1030.†
10.30 Tears of Sorrow and Joy: The Taverner Consort play music for voices and viols.†
11.15 News. Until 11.18. VHF only: Open University. 11.20pm – 12.00 Education for Adults.

Radio 2

4.00am Bill Rennells.† 5.30 Ray Moore.† 7.30 David Hamilton† including 8.31 Racing Bulletin. 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00pm Steve Jones† including 1.05 Sport. 2.00 Gloria Hunniford† including 2.02, 3.02 Sport. 3.10 Newmarket Racing: (Ladbroke European Free Handicap). 3.30 Music All The Way† including 3.40 Newmarket Racing (Earl of Sefton Stakes). 4.00 Paul Burnett† including 4.02, 5.05 Sport. 6.00 John Dunn† including 6.02 Sport. 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (mf only). 8.00 Space Force: The third of six programmes. 3: The Silver Stranger.† 8.25 BBC Radio Orchestra with Bill Rennells.† 9.15 Syd Lawrence in Concert from the Playhouse Theatre, Manchester.† 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 The Golden Years with Alan Keith. 10.30 Hubert Gregg says Thanks for the Memory. 11.00 Brian Matthew present Round Midnight (stereo from midnight). 1.00am Charles Nove presents Nightride.† 3.00 Olympic Memories (Montreal 1976).† 3.30-4.00 Maryetta and Vernon Midgley.†

Radio 1

6.00am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Gary Davies, including 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00 Steve Wright. 4.30 Peter Powell, including 7.00 Richard Skinner. 10.00-12.00 John Peel.† VHF Radio 1 and 2: 4.00am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-4.00 With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 6.30 Omnibus. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 That's Trad. 7.45 Report on Religion. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Peebles' Choice. 8.30 I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 These Musical Islands. 10.15 Patrick Martyn's Music Box. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 World Service Short Story. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Nature Notebook. 12.25 The Farming World. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 1.30 Inspiration. 1.45 Holst and His Circle. 2.15 Report on Religion. 2.30 Middlemarch. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Counterpoint. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 5.30 Assignment. 6.00 London Royal. 6.15 World Service Short Story. 6.30 Jazz For The Asking. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 The Future of Work. 11.30 Top Twenty. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Waveguide. 12.40 Book Choice. 12.45 I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Monitor. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 London Royal. 2.30 Assignment. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 These Musical Islands. 4.45 Financial News. 4.55 Reflections. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 5.45 The World Today.

(All times in GMT)

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.
† Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

BBC 1 Wales: 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales headlines. 3.53-3.55 News of Wales headlines. 5.55 Wales Today. 12.10am News and weather. Scotland: 12.55pm-1.00 The Scottish news. 5.55 Scotland: Sixty Minutes. 12.10am News and weather. Northern Ireland: 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland news. 3.53-3.55 Northern Ireland news. 5.55 Scene Around Six. 12.10am News and weather. England: 5.55pm Regional news magazines. 12.15am close.

ULSTER As London except: starts 9.25-9.30 The Day Ahead. 10.25 The Adventures of Gulliver. 10.50 Cartoon Time. 11.05-12.00 James Galway – Masterclass. 1.20-1.30 Lunchtime. 3.30 The Crazy World of Sport. 3.58-4.00 Ulster News. 5.15-5.45 Definition. 6.00-6.35 Good Evening Ulster. 11.30 I Am The Life. 11.45 News.

ANGLIA As London except: 10.25 Film: The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams (Dan Haggerty). 11.50-12.00 Wattoo Wattoo. 12.30-1.00 Judi. 1.20-1.30 Anglia News. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 11.30 Darkroom. 12.30 Stations of the Cross, closedown.

GRANADA As London except: starts 9.25 Atom Ant. 9.30 The Poseidon Files. 10.25 Groovy Ghoulies. 10.45 Tarzan. 11.35-12.00 Little Rascals". 12.30-1.00 Judi. 1.20 Granada Reports. 1.30-2.00 Exchange Flags. 3.30-4.00 The Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Vintage Quiz. 6.00 This is Your Right. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30-7.00 Granada Reports. 11.30 The Streets of San Francisco. 12.30 Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

TSW As London except: 10.25 Joe 90. 10.50 Story Hour. 11.35-12.00 Wheelie and the Chopper Bunch. 12.30-1.00 Judi. 1.20-1.30 TSW News Headlines. 5.15 Gus Honeybun's Magic Birthdays. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 Just Our Luck. 11.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace. 12.35 Postscript. 12.40 Weather and Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 10.25 Under Kilimanjaro. 10.50 Joe 90. 11.15 Flora and Fauna. 11.30-12.00 A Land, a Man, a God. 12.30-1.00 Judi. 1.20-1.30 Scottish News. 3.30-4.00 The Adventurer. 5.10 Action Line. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.30-7.00 Report. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 The Devlin Connection. 12.35 Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 12.30-1.00 Judi. 1.20 Channel News. 5.15-5.45 Joe 90. 6.00-6.35 Channel Report. 11.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace. 12.35 News and Weather in French, closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: starts 9.25-9.30 First Thing. 10.50 The Poseidon Files. 11.45-12.00 Hallas and Bachelor Cartoon. 12.30-1.00 Judi. 1.20-1.30 North News. 3.30-4.00 The Young Doctors. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 11.30 Journey to the Unknown. 12.00 North headlines and Weather. 12.25 Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: starts 9.25 North East News. 10.25-12.00 Kidnapped (Michael Caine). 1.20 North East News. 1.25-1.30 Where the Jobs are. 2.30-3.30 The Mysteries of Edgar Wallace. 5.15 Best of Three. 5.45-6.00 North East News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 Northern Life. 11.30 Newhart. 12.00 Thought and Prayers for Holy Week. 12.05 Closedown.

S4C 2.00 Ffalabalam. 2.15 Interval. 2.30 Racing from Newmarket. 4.30 Countdown. 5.00 Pictiwrs Bach. 5.05 Smyrffs. 5.35 The Munsters. 6.00 Brookside. 6.30 Jeopardy. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.30 Bara Brith. 8.00 Ddoi Ddim Yn Ol. 8.30 Y Byd Ar Bedwar/News Headlines. 9.00 Film: Britannia Hospital. 11.05 Diverse Reports. 11.30 Jesus the Evidence. 12.25 Close.

HTV WEST As London except: 10.25 The Little Rascals." 10.40 The Poseidon Files. 11.30 The Amazing Years of Cinema. 12.30-1.00 Judi. 1.20 HTV News. 2.30 Return of the Saint. Followed by: HTV News. 3.30 The Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00-6.35 HTV News. 11.30 Q.E.D. 12.30 Weather and closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except:– 6.00-6.35 Wales at Six.

BORDER As London except: 10.25 Target the Impossible. 10.50 Prairie Habitat. 11.05 The Poseidon Files. 11.55-12.00 Cartoon. 1.20-1.30 Border News. 3.30-4.00 The Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Whose Baby? 6.00-6.35 Lookaround Wednesday. 11.30 Portrait of a Legend (Tina Turner). 12.00 News Summary. 12.03 Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: starts 9.25 3-2-1 Contact. 9.55 Eastern Tales. 10.05 The Road to Los Angeles. 10.50 Curley and his Gang. 11.45 The Little Rascals. 12.30-1.00 Judi. 1.20 Central News. 2.00 Miracles Take Longer. 2.30-3.30 The Devlin Connection. 5.15-5.45 Mysteries, Myths and Legends. 6.00 Central News. 11.30 Quest for the Unknown. 12.35 Closedown.

TVS As London except: starts 9.25 Farming Brief. 9.28-9.30 Holiday Time. 10.25 The Flying Kiwi. 10.50 Orphans of the Wild. 11.15-12.00 Big Shamus, Little Shamus. 1.20-1.30 TVS News. 2.00 Benson. 2.30 Mr & Mrs. 3.00-3.30 Private Benjamin. 5.15-5.45 Silver Spoons. 6.00-6.35 Coast to Coast. 11.30 Women in Rock 'n Roll. 12.30 Company, closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 10.25 Hoodoo Country. 10.55 European Folk Tales. 11.05 Story Hour. 11.55 Melotoons. 12.30 Judi. 1.20-1.30 Calendar News. 5.15 The Protectors. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 11.30 Barney Miller. 12.00 Meditations for Holy Week. 12.00 Closedown.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. **Radio 2** MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. **Radio 1/2** VHF 88-91MHz. **Radio 3** VHF 90-92.5MHz, MF 1215kHz/247m. **Radio 4** LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz. Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m. **LBC** MF 1152kHz/261m, VHF 97.3MHz. **Capital** MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95.8MHz. **BBC Radio London** MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94.9MHz. **World Service** MF 648kHz/463m.

Entertainments

THE TIMES ★★★★★★ First Published 1785

Thatcher ready to tackle total pit shutdown

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Government has prepared contingency plans for a total pit strike in two weeks. Cabinet papers from the civil emergency sub-committee have gone out to the electricity generating authority in readiness for a complete cessation of coal supplies.

Ministers calculate that tomorrow's special delegate conference in Sheffield of the National Union of Mineworkers will either spread the "rolling strike" through more intensive picketing or halt the industry by a national strike ballot.

Their forward planning for power supply envisages a series of thresholds through which coal and power supply could pass in the next few weeks.

The worst scenario is an all-out strike early next month which would halt the million-tone a week supply of coal going into the power stations in the Trent Valley, critical to the operation of the national grid.

If that happens, the generating authorities calculate that coal stocks in the power stations will last at least 16 and up to 20 weeks. The operating lifetime of the stations could be extended if the oil burn is maximised.

But the Cabinet plans are still optimistic that moderate miners in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and south Derbyshire will continue normal working, supplying vital coal supplies that could keep the national grid going "almost indefinitely".

If there is an all-out strike, the Government is preparing to ask the construction companies, Taylor Woodrow, McAlpine and Wimpey, for the loan of 30-tonne trucks that could be used as "lorry trains" to break a miners' union blockade of pithead coal stocks.

That initiative is regarded as more diplomatic than the use of troops to shift coal out of strike-bound collieries to the power stations when supplies begin to run out within the next few months.

Officals of the generating authorities have been taken aback by the vehemence with which the government is purshuing its policy on the coal strike. They conceded grudgingly in private that Mrs Margaret Thatcher is willing to spend any amount of money to ensure that the Government is not agin defeated by the miners' union.

Strike pledge, page 2



Observer editor vows to stay

By David Cross

Mr Daniel Trelford, editor of *The Observer* is cutting short a holiday in Guernsey to fight any attempt by Mr Roland (Tiny) Rowland, the Sunday newspaper's proprietor, to unseat him.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Trelford said that he intended to continue as editor in spite of Mr Rowland's public condemnation of a story he wrote in last Sunday's issue about alleged atrocities by Zimbabwe troops in Matabeleland. He said that he would be back in his office in London today to find out exactly what was going on. He was sure that all the other journalists on *The Observer* would support his cause.

Journalists at the newspaper said yesterday that they were angry at Mr Roland's intervention. They expected an emergency meeting of the chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists to give its full backing to Mr Trelford tonight.

Mr Rowland, who is chairman of the Lonrho group which owns *The Observer*, has already appologized to Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, for the report. Lonrho has large financial and business interests in Zimbabwe.

In an interview on yesterday's *World at One* programme on BBC Radio 4, Mr Trelford described the criticisms of his report as "nonsense". He said he would not be inhibited by "the lies that are being said about my story. I will defend the integrity of my report. I will defend the integrity and independence of *The Observer*."

Mr Trelford said that Mr Rowland had known last Saturday that the article would be published and had made it clear that the "consequences might be difficult for him".

He said that his position was clear under the guarantees of editorial independence accepted by Lonrho when it bought the newspaper three years ago.

Paragraph 29B of the newspaper's articles of association states that "the editor of *The Observer* shall retain control over any political comment published in *The Observer* and shall not be subject to any restraint or inhibition on expressing opinion or in reporting news that might directly or indirectly conflict with the opinion or interest of the proprietor of *The Observer*".

Tomorrow

Civil words
The Times Profile: Writer, poet and ex-civil servant C. H. Sisson at 70

The write stuff
A. J. P. Taylor's Diary, Randolph Churchill, the latest fiction and children's books reviewed

First innings
Simon Barnes and Richard Streeton keep watch on the first day of the cricket season

The great divide
Living next door to a war: a Special Report on Kuwait

£1,300 fine on arm case farmer

The employer of the farm-worker who carried his severed arm across fields and had it sewn back on in hospital was fined £1,300 and ordered to pay £1,000 court costs yesterday.

Mr Richard Markham, aged 43, was found guilty of five summonses for failing to have safety guards on equipment at his farm in Henton, Oxfordshire. He pleaded not guilty.

Health and safety officials told magistrates at Thame, Oxfordshire, that Mr Markham, was previously warned twice about safety regualtions.

Mr Markham said he thought the baler that ripped off Mr Roy Tapping's arm was guarded when it was being used. He added: "I dont' feel I caused Roy to lose his arm".

Mr Tapping, aged 33, of Bledlow, Buckinghamshire, said afterwards: "I bear no grudge against him. You could say we're pals."



Mr Nkomo at yesterday's press conference (Photograph by Chris Harris).

Church hits back at Mugabe and denies supporting rebels

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Amid the uproar here over foreign press coverage of Zimbabwe, the Catholic Church, regarded by the Government as having contributed significantly to its embarrassment over reports of army brutality in Matabeleland, hit back yesterday against criticism from Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace described Mr Mugabe's assertions at the weekend that churchmen in Matabeleland sympathized with guerrillas in the province and worshipped Mr Joshua Nkomo alongside God, as astonishing.

The statement said it should have been clear that the bishops had never been involved in party politics and were concerned only "with protecting innocent people against brutality, the violation of their human rights and starvation".

With journalists prohibited from the curfew area of Matabeleland South, much of the information emerging on the killing, torture, beatings and starvation of civilians has been supplied by church sources.

The latest round of recrimination was directed at foreign correspondents, with Mr Mugabe threatening on Monday to take "very firm steps to curb mischief-making" in British and American newspapers.

The Government has not issued a denial of allegations made by Mr Donald Trelford in Sunday's edition of *The Observer*. In a press briefing with Zimbabwean journalists on Monday, in which he disclosed that Mr Tiny Rowland had written to him apologizing and dissociating himself from the article, Mr Mugabe said of Mr Trelford: "He asked to see us here. I granted him an interview, the Minister of Information granted him an interview, the Minister of Security granted him an interview and he was invited to come with us to Matabeleland.

"But we understand that he chose to go clandestinely into the curfew area, had his own contacts and then he produced that front-page news item in *The Observer*. Well, you get that kind of journalist."

The affair has caused particular embarrassment to ministers and some Lonrho employees here who seem to have expected that *The Observer* would treat Zimbabwe with kid gloves because of Lonrho's business interests.

In spite of the obvious official anger at Mr Trelford, his article contained little new information.

● Nkomo's response: The Zimbabwe opposition leader said yesterday he had suffered more since his country won independence four years ago than he had during the 33-year struggle against colonial rule (Henry Stanhope writes).

This was despite the fact that he had spent 11 of those 33 years in detention and had been in exile for half the time, he told a London press conference to launch his autobiography, *Nkomo: The Story of My Life*, which is published today by Methuen.

He was reluctant to be drawn into the clash between Mr Trelford and Mr Rowland.

Murder inquiry as children die in fire

Four children burned to death in their home yesterday may have been murdered, police believe.

Detectives set up an incident room to investigate the tragedy which happened when a fire broke out in the three-bedroomed terrace house in Lower Caversham, Reading, Berkshire, in the early hours. Detective Inspector Jim Ackerman confirmed that the incident was being treated as a case of multiple murder.

The children, Stephen Lawlor, aged eight, twin brothers Gary and Patrick, aged seven, and Paul aged three, were trapped in the blaze, which devastated the house.

Their mother, Mrs Sue Lawlor, aged 28, and her baby daughter, Kelly-Marie, fled to safety by crawling down the stairs through the flames and running to neighbours.

Fireman and ambulancemen found Mr Patrick Lawlor, a road construction worker, collapsed on the pavement in front of the house. There were unconfirmed reports that he had a throat injury and he had to be revived by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation before being taken to the Royal Berkshire, Hospital in Reading. A hospital spokesman described his condition as stable.

He was later transferred to a specialist burns unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Mrs Lawlor and Kelly-Marie were taken to the same hospital and treated for the effects of smoke and shock. They then went to Reading police station, where detectives questioned them about the tragedy.

The bodies of the children were found in a back bedroom by firemen wearing breathing apparatus.

Det Insp Ackerman confirmed that a man was assisting with inquiries into the children's murder.

Mrs Carol Rush, a neighbour, said the first she knew of the fire was when one of her teenage daughters woke her up.

"We all rushed outside. The flames were leaping in the air but I had no idea anyone was inside. The firemen soon arrived but the house was well alight" she said.

Her younger daughter, Jackie, aged 14, said she saw Mrs Lawlor run out of the house carrying the baby and screaming: "My kids, my kids." She added: "I didn't realize the children were in the house until someone told me later.

Commons consider security review

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs will next Wednesday consider whether it should investigate any aspect of security in the wake of the Battaney case.

Sir Edward Gardiner, the Conservative chairman, said last night that the all-party committee would be meeting after the Easter recess to discuse its next subject for inquiry.

He added: "It comes naturally as a subject for discussion.

But he stressed that he would not wish the committee to probe into matters of security. "I would of course be very willing to see an investigation by the select committee, but only if I could be sure that we were not going to trespass into the field of high security."

Positive vetting procedures, Sir Edward said, could be a possible candidate for review. *The Times* reported yesterday that Bettaney had not been vetted since he first started work for the Security Service in 1975 – in spite of the fact that all security officers should be subjected to quinquennial review.

The Security Commission reported last year that Prime had received his first vetting clearence by GCHQ in 1968. His quinquennial review in 1973, failed to discover that Prime had admitted his espionage to his first wife and close friend.

But if the Security Service, which advised the Prime Security Commission review, itself to conduct a fresh vetting investigation of Bettaney in 1980, the strongest possible criticism will be levelled against the service.

Bettaney moved to MI5's counter Soviet intelligence desk in the Autumn of 1982 shortly after the Security Service had carried out an inspection of protective security arrangements at the Cheltenham sites.

Yet is has now emerged that the Security Service could not even deter Bettaney from taking a camera into his Curson Street Office.

Commons' reaction to the security lapse was strong yesterday, but MPs can be sure that their concern will be reflected by the Prime Minister.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, 2.45.

Princess Anne, is entertained to luncheon by the Sail Training Association at Packington Hall, Coventry, 12.30; and later visits the Shelforce Project in Erdington, Birmingham Dinner at Trinity College, Cambridge, 2.55. Her Royal Highness then visits the British Road Services Group's Driver Training School, at Erdington. Birmingham, 3.50.

In the evening Princess Anne, president of the British Olympic Association attends a concert at the Dunstable Queensway Hall, Bedford, 7.

New exhibition

Paintings by Bert Richards, William Sevior, Jim Wilson and Robin Smith, Maclaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 13).

Constructivism in Poland – at the Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6; Tues to Sun 12 to 8pm. (Until May 20).

A Mixed Exhibition – various artists to be sold in aid of the Dialysis Fund, at Camden Arts Centre, Arts Centre, Arkwright Rd, NW3; Mon to Sat 11 to 6, Sun 2 to 6, Fri 11 to 8. (Until April 24).

Industrial Monuments and sites, prehistory to the present, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, 23 Saville Row, W1, today from 1 pm, then Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30 pm.

Anthony Fry – recent paintings at the Browse and Darby Gallery, 19 Cork St, W1; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10.30 to 1.00. (Until May 19).

Exhibitions in progress

Silver from the family collection, Burghley House, Stamford, Lincs; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Oct 7).

Images of India, featuring a wealth of 19th century photographs from the Jane and Howard Ricketts collection, National Museum of Photography, Princess View, Bradford, West Yorks; Tues to Sat 12 to 8, Sun 2.30 to 6, closed Mon (until Apr 29).

Works on Paper by John Bellany, Pier Arts Centre, Stromness, Orkney; Tues to Sat 10.30 to 12.30, 1.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (until Apr 28).

Robert Medley, paintings, and Robert Maplethorpe, photographs; two exhibitions at Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke St, Oxford; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (until May 20).

Nineteenth and 20th century Scottish paintings, Fine Art Society, 134 Blythswood St, Glasgow, Strathclyde; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (until Apr 30).

Platt Hall Gallery of English Costume, the most important collection of English Costume outside London, City Art Gallery, Mosely street, Manchester; Tues to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun and Monday (until Sept 28.

Dieties of Roman Cotswolds; Corinium Museum, Cirencester; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (closed Mon).

Turners from the Tate; Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Sq, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 27).

Anthropological Collections in Cambridge; Adeane Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum Trumpington St; (until May 6).

Cross Section; paintings and drawings by Chris Orr, two exhibitions at Artspace Galleries, 21 Castle St, Aberdeen; Mon to Sat 10 to 8, closed Sun (until April 25).

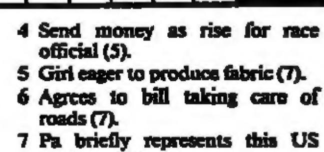
A Journey to India, paintings and batik by Ellen Neustein, and Just Edinburgh, a selection of new and original prints, two exhibitions at the Netherbow Arts Centre, 43 High Street, Edinburgh; Tues to Sat 10 to 4, closed Sun and Mon (until April 28).

Works by Victorine Foot and Bill Wright; Scottish Gallery, 94 George St, Edinburgh; Mon to Fri 9 to 5.30, Sat 9 to 1, closed Sun (until May 2).

Highland landmarks – photographs of the Highland landscape by Michael Edwards, Museum and Art Gallery, Inverness; Mon to Sat 9 to 5, closed Sun (until April 30).

Freshwater Biological Association, Dorset County Museum, High Street West, Dorchester; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5, closed Sun (until April 30).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,408



ACROSS

1 Marshall Hall *vis-à-vis* his siblings? No, their spouses (7-2-3).
8 Festival with name like a native of 14 (7).
9 But they don't intimidate only male champions (7).
11 Falls into a river once more on the way back (7).
12 They objectively take in mineral aggregate? Prove it! (7).
13 Vocalize in Co Mayo delicatessen (5).
14 Central Asian follows in exhausted state (9).
16 Rogues who are against the chief Muslim secret agents (9).
19 Find a drink in the bush (5).
21 Such indicators are almost unnecessary (7).
23 A pupil in this situation should remain alert (7).
24 Lively bird returned and took food (7).
25 Head of Philosophy lax about this proposition (7).
26 Meddling with the signals? (12).

DOWN

1 Bird has a way to understand sculpture (7).
2 Work garment, taken as a whole (7).
3 Magyar form of Rugby Union in Ghana (9).
4 Send money as rise for race official (5).
5 Girl eager to produce fabric (7).
6 Agrees to bill taking care of roads (7).
7 Pa briefly represents this US territory (12).
10 Lady Macbeth-like characters to be found in most albums (12).
15 Pluto has moderate attack of viral disorder (9).
17 European secures end of fighting in race riot (7).
18 With blisters, like everyone up in Bute (7).
19 He's ruined – lived at the liquor-house (7).
20 Fully understand new serial on Egyptian leader (7).
22 Haggard woman with a fine bundle of arrows. (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,407

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

New books – hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
A Historian and His World, A Life of Christopher Dawson, 1889-1970, by Christina Scott (Sheed & Ward, £15).
All Our Working Lives, by Peter Pagnamenta and Richard Overy (BBC, £10.75).
Chaucer and the Imagery of Narrative, by V. A. Kolve (Edward Arnold, £15).
David Roberts R.A. 1796-1864, by Katherine Sim (Quartet, £16.50).
Donatello, by Bonnie A. Bennett and David G. Wilkins (Phaidon, 135).
Past Masters: Bach, by Denis Arnold; **Leibnitz**, by G. MacDonald Ross; **Locke**, by John Dunn (Oxford, £7.95 each; paperback, £1.95).
Tributes, Interpreters of our Cultural Tradition, by E. H. Gombrich (Phaidon, £17.50).
Wordsworth and the Lake District, A Guide to the Poems and their Places, by David McCracken (Oxford, £12.50).

PH

The papers

The Daily Mirror says: "What happened at the Libyan Embassy yesterday was bloody and barbaric because the people involved are bloody and barbaric. They are fanatics who live only for their crazed leader, Colonel Gaddafi.

Gaddafi's killers carry their hatred into the capitals of the civilized world. When the shooting and bombing start, it is the local police who are in the front line, often risking their lives. And sometimes losing them. Was there ever a more senseless death of a British police officer than that of PCW Yvonne Fletcher?

The man who killed her must not be allowed to get away by claiming diplomatic immunity. He must face the British courts like any other murderer, even if the Libyans then proclaim him a hero of the revolution. Perhaps we cannot stop them bringing their barbarism to our country. But at least we can meet it with our justice."

The Daily Star says that "This murderous shooting is an outrageous act and a criminal misuse of diplomatic privilege for which the Libyans must now pay dearly. Britain warned them about their behaviour weeks ago, after bomb attacks in London and Manchester.

"There is no point in messing about. Britain must now withdraw diplomatic status from the Libyan building and the people in it. We must send the SAS in the scour it from the rafters to the cellar.

The Daily Express says: "Libyan representatives in Britain should be told to go. The appalling shooting of innocent people in London is the last straw. The least we can do is to close down Libya's murder-nest; it's so-called People's Bureau. Every Libyan in Britain, whether pro or anti Gaddafi, must be thoroughly checked out by the police and the immigration authorities, and the dangerous ones made safe by expulsion or restraint.

Anniversaries

Births: Louis Adolphe Thiers, first president (1871-73) of the Third Republic of France, Marseilles, 1797; George Henry Lewes, critic and scientist, London, 1817.

Deaths: John Foxe, author of *The Book of Martyrs*, London, 1587; Ottorino Respighi, composer, Rome, 1936; Sir Ambrose Fleming, electrical engineer, Sidmouth, Devon, 1945; Albert Einstein, Nobel laureate 1921, Princeton, New Jersey, 1955.

The Republic of Ireland Act 1948 came into force, 1949.

Roads

Wales an West: A30/352/A3030: various road works in Longburton area, Dorset, A39: North Road, Barnstable, Devon, single lane temportary lights zig-zag, Arlington (between Arlington and Lynton) improvement work, road closed. A55: (Clwyd) Chester to Colwyn Bay, Ewloe flyover construction, Holywell by-pass resurfacing, temporary signals. A68: (Northumberland) Elishaw, eight miles NE of Bellingham, roadworks. A1: Brownyside, north of Alnwick, Northumberland, temporary lights. A6: between junctions 32 and 33 (M55 and Lancaster) Lancashire, contraflow.

Scotland: A85: only one lane E and W of Invergowrie, Angus and Perthshire. A74: (Dumfriesshire) between Strathclyde regional boundary and Scotland border, patching work at various locations. A82: two miles south of Ardlui, Dunbartonshire, periodic halting of Ardlui, one lane, temporary lights at both.

National day

Zimbabwe today celebrates its fourth anniversary of independence from Britain. After 15 years of UDI, power was transferred formally from London to Harare on April 18, 1980. Under the leadership of Mr Robert Mugabe, the country faces the challenges of soaring inflation, unemployment, and the devastation of this year's southern African drought. Politically Mr Mugabe will seek to win a mandate within the next year to make Zimbabwe a one-party state.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.61	1.53
Austria Sch	27.65	26.05
Belgium Fr	81.25	77.25
Canada $	1.88	1.81
Denmark Kr	14.27	13.57
Finland Mkk	8.34	7.94
France Fr	11.88	11.38
Germany DM	3.87	3.69
Greece Dr	154.00	144.00
Hongkong $	11.50	10.90
Ireland	1.27	1.21
Italy Lira	2395.00	2295.00
Japan Yen	335.00	319.00
Netherlands Gld	4.40	4.18
Norway Kr	11.29	10.69
Portugal Esc	196.00	186.00
South Africa Rd	2.00	1.86
Spain Pta	216.50	205.50
Sweden Kr	11.60	11.02
Switzerland Fr	3.23	3.06
USA $	1.46	1.41
Yugoslavia Dnr	183.00	173.00

Retail Price Index: 345.1.

London: The *FT* Index closed up 4.6 at 879.8.

Weather forecast

A moist SW airstream covers Britain with troughs of low pressure crossing N and central areas.

6am to midnight

London, SE England, E Anglia, Channel Islands: Dry with some sunny intervals, winds S light occasionally moderate, max temp 15C (59F).

Cen S, E, Cen N, NE England, Midlands, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Rain or drizzle, hill fog, brighter and drier in places later, winds S to SW light to moderate, locally fresh, max temp 13C (55F).

SW, NW, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Rain or drizzles in places, hill fog, winds SW moderate or fresh, max temp 12C (54F).

SW, NW, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Cen Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: Rain at times, hill fog, winds mainly S to SE, moderate to fresh locally strong at first, max temp 10C (50F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Changeable in the NW, otherwise little change.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind S Moderate or fresh, mainly fair, visibility moderate or good, sea slight or moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S to SW fresh or strong, occassional drizzle, visibility moderate with fog patches, sea rough.

Sun rises: 5.58 am — Sun sets: 8.03 pm
Moon rises: 11.56 pm — Moon sets: 7.23 am
Last quarter: April 23.

Lighting-up time

London 8.33 pm to 5.26 am
Bristol 8.42 pm to 5.36 am
Edinburgh 8.56 pm to 5.27 am
Manchester 8.48 pm to 5.30 am
Penzance 8.51 pm to 5.51 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	f	9	48	Guernsey	s	10	50
Birmingham	c	10	50	Inverness	f	9	48
Blackpool	s	10	50	Jersey	s	10	50
Bristol	f	11	52	London	f	12	54
Cardiff	f	10	50	Manchester	f	11	52
Edinburgh	f	10	50	Newcastle	f	9	48
Glasgow	f	10	50	Ronaldsway	f	8	46

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 14C (57F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 6 pm, 46 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.05in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 9.8hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,030.4 millibars falling.
1,000 millibars=29.53ins.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: highest day temp: Jersey, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Tynemouth, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Machrihanish, 0.15in; highest sunshine: Jersey, 12.9 hr.





b-blue sky; bc-blue sky and cloud; c-cloudy; o-overcast; f-fog; d-drizzle; h-hail; m-mist; r-rain; s-snow; th-thunderstorm; p-showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled. temperatures fahrenheit.

High tides

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aberdeen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avonmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Belfast	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cardiff	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Devonport	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dover	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Falmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Glasgow	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harwich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Holyhead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hull	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ilfracombe	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Leith	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Liverpool	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lowestoft			12.13	2.4
Margate	2.19	5.0	2.52	4.8
Milford Haven	8.48	7.3	9.08	7.2
Newquay	7.38	7.3	7.59	4.0
Oban	8.07	4.0	8.30	4.0
Penzance	7.40	5.7	7.57	5.6
Portland	9.35	2.3	9.53	2.2
Portsmouth	1.48	4.9	2.10	4.8
Shoreham	1.31	6.5	1.53	6.3
Southampton	1.09	4.8	1.28	4.6
Swansea	8.57	9.9	9.13	9.8
Tees	6.11	5.5	6.30	5.6
Walton-on-Naze	2.02	4.4	2.27	4.3

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	10.3	–	8	46	Sunny	Guernsey	12.1	–	13	55	Sunny
Bridlington	9.9	–	9	48	Sunny	Scilly Isles	2.6	–	11	52	Cloudy
Cromer	10.5	–	9	48	Sunny	Newquay	3.2	–	10	50	Cloudy
Lowestoft	8.1	.09	10	50	Sunny	Ilfracombe	–	–	–	–	–
Clacton	9.5	–	11	52	Sunny	Tenby	–	–	10	50	Cloudy
Margate	–	–	–	–	–	Southport	6.7	–	12	54	Bright
Folkestone	12.0	–	11	52	Sunny	Morecambe	9.5	–	10	50	Sunny
Hastings	12.0	–	11	52	Sunny	Douglas	6.4	.02	9	48	Rain pm
Eastbourne	12.2	–	11	52	Sunny	London (Ctr)	9.8	.03	14	57	Sunny
Brighton	–	–	10	50	Sunny	B'ham (Airpt)	5.3	–	11	52	Bright
Worthing	11.2	–	11	52	Sunny	Bristol (Ctr)	6.2	–	12	54	Bright
Littlehmptn	9.8	–	11	52	Sunny	Cardiff (Ctr)	4.6	.02	11	52	Rain pm
Bognor R	10.8	–	10	50	Sunny	Anglesey	4.9	–	10	50	Cloudy
Southsea	8.7	–	12	54	Sunny am	B'pool (Airpt)	8.2	–	11	52	Sunny
Shanklin	10.7	–	11	52	Sunny	Manchester	8.5	–	13	55	Sunny
Bournemouth	9.1	–	11	52	Sunny am	Nottingham	8.4	–	13	55	Sunny
Poole	8.4	–	13	55	Sunny am	N'cstl-o-Tyne	8.9	–	11	52	Bright
Swanage	10.1	–	10	50	Sunny	Carlisle	9.4	–	10	50	Sunny
Weymouth	6.1	–	11	52	Sunny am	Eskdalemuir	7.0	–	10	50	Sunny
Exmouth	6.3	–	10	50	Sunny am	Prestwick	7.8	–	11	52	Bright
Torquay	7.5	–	11	52	Sunny am	Glasgow	6.2	–	11	52	Bright

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	r	12	54	Copenhgn	s	10	50	Majorca	f	17	63	Rio de Jan*	s	27	81
Akrotiri	f	19	66	Corfu	f	16	61	Malaga	s	19	66	Rome	c	14	57
Alexandria	s	26	79	Dallas*	c	18	64	Malta	f	18	64	Salzburg	sn	2	36
Algiers	f	18	64	Dublin	r	8	46	Melbourne	s	19	66	Sao Paulo	–	–	–
Amsterdam	f	10	50	Dubrovnik	r	13	55	Mexico C*	s	20	68	S Francisco*	c	15	59
Athens	–	–	–	Faro	s	21	70	Miami*	s	26	79	Santiago*	c	20	68
Bahrain	s	28	82	Florence	c	13	55	Milan	f	13	55	Seoul	c	11	52
Barbados	–	–	–	Frankfurt	f	10	50	Montreal*	r	6	43	Singapore	f	31	88
Barcelona	s	15	59	Funchal	f	18	64	Moscow	s	21	40	Stockholm	s	10	50
Beirut	c	19	66	Geneva	f	9	48	Munich	c	4	39	Strasbourg	r	10	50
Belgrade	c	19	66	Gibraltar	s	17	63	Nairobi*	f	15	59	Sydney	f	28	82
Berlin	f	9	48	Helsinki	c	7	45	Naples	c	15	59	Tangier	s	22	72
Bermuda*	f	22	72	Hongkong	r	21	70	New Delhi	s	36	97	Tel Aviv	f	21	70
Biarritz	s	12	54	Innsbruck	c	3	41	New York*	c	9	48	Tenerife	f	21	70
Boulogne	s	9	48	Istanbul	f	13	55	Nice	f	14	57	Tokyo	c	16	61
Bordeaux	s	13	55	Jeddah	s	33	91	Oslo	s	9	48	Toronto*	r	7	45
Brussels	f	10	50	Jo'burg	f	24	75	Ottawa	–	–	–	Tunis	s	18	64
Budapest	f	15	59	Karachi	s	34	93	Paris	f	12	54	Valencia	s	16	61
Buen Aires	–	–	–	Las Palmas	s	22	72	Peking	f	18	64	Vancouver*	f	10	50
Cairo	s	30	86	Lisbon	s	19	66	Perth	r	20	68	Venice	c	12	54
Cape Tn	c	18	64	Locarno	s	15	59	Prague	r	5	41	Vienna	c	6	43
C'blanca	f	19	66	L Angeles	–	–	–	Reykjavik	c	3	37	Warsaw	c	8	46
Chicago	–	–	–	Luxembg	f	8	46	Rhodes	f	19	66	Washington*	f	17	63
Cologne	c	9	48	Madrid	s	15	59	Riyadh	s	35	95	Zurich	c	6	43

* denotes Mondays figures are latest available.

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